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NEWS WORTH SHARING.

Another glass of Cristal, monsieur?

Surrey will be getting a swanky new country club, complete with tennis courts, swimming pools and a farm to grow local produce for the restaurants PAGE 3

Lions, cubs killed for the greater good?

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Vancouver for the win

The Canucks beat the Wild 5-2, keeping their playoff hopes alive

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TAKING CONTROL

DAY 2 OF METRO'S LOOK AT FIRST NATIONS SCHOOLS: DOES THE NEW ACT GET A PASSING GRADE?

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Truckers reach deal to end strike

Back to work.
Agreement focuses on 14-point plan put forward two weeks ago, but includes improvements

Striking container truck drivers attended a rally in Vancouver on Friday, before a deal was reached to end the strike. Truckers are expected to be back at work Thursday. DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Striking truckers at Canada's largest port reached a deal Wednesday to end a prolonged strike, which has left hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of cargo stranded at Vancouver-area container terminals and prompted escalating pressure from the provincial and federal governments.

"This agreement means our port is open for business starting (Thursday) morning," B.C. Premier Christy Clark said at the provincial legislature in Victoria, after a flurry of meetings between government officials and the truckers.

"We had to sit down and look at each other in the eyes and realize we weren't that far apart."

Clark said the deal means the government will withdraw back-to-work legislation it introduced this week. The legislation was slated to come into effect by Wednesday evening at the earliest.

"My view is very much you shouldn't have a fight if you can get a deal," she said. "We got a deal instead."

Unifor president Jerry Dias said the union had planned to tell the government it was prepared to defy the back-to-work law.

But officials with Unifor, which represents about 250 unionized truckers, and the United Truckers' Association of B.C., which represents more than 1,000 non-union workers, spent hours holed up with provincial government staff and cabinet ministers.

"This is by far the most complicated set of negotiations I've ever been involved on," said Dias, after the agreement was announced.

He said the bargaining involved 180 different companies, 1,200 non-union truck drivers, 350 union drivers and two levels of government.

"So, trying to get an agreement is difficult, he said. "But what changed today was the willingness to listen. The key thing was the desire to find resolve."

Dias thanked Clark and her cabinet ministers, and he criticized the federal government for fighting the truckers rather than negotiating. He said if it was up to Ottawa, Vancouver's port would be closed today.

The dispute largely focused on issues related to pay, including rates, unpaid time spent at the port waiting for cargo and allegations of undercutting within the industry.

B.C., Ottawa and the port put forward a 14-point plan two weeks ago in an attempt to allay the truckers' concerns, but the workers quickly dismissed the proposal as inadequate. The deal reached Wednesday focused on the 14-point plan but contained improvements for the truckers.

The union and non-union truckers agree to return to work and Port Metro Vancouver agrees to rescind all trucker licence suspensions where no criminal charges were laid against drivers. The federal government will increase trip rates by 12 per cent and wait fees for truckers at the ports will be increased.

The deal also includes an agreement that mediator Vince Ready will be appointed to issue recommendations on the 14-point plan, which will be reviewed, made final and acted upon within 90 days of a return to work.

B.C.'s premier and Prime Minister Stephen Harper each warned the dispute was threatening the country's economy.

The union previously said it wanted a higher wage increase. It also demanded fees for wait times to kick in after only one hour, instead of two, and for those fees to increase over time.

Port Metro Vancouver issued a statement Wednesday afternoon, before the deal was announced, hailing the 14-point plan as the best way to end the dispute.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Simon Fraser University

Students, staff look to end SFU fossil fuel investments

Hundreds of students and teachers at Simon Fraser University have signed a petition and are scheduled to plead their case to the board of governors Thursday to pressure the school to divest itself of fossil fuels.

Anthony Perl, director of SFU's urban-studies department, said a school is about building a better tomorrow and there's a contradiction in teaching students to be environmentally friendly yet putting money into fossil fuels at the same time.

"People invest in universities because they expect and are anticipating or hoping for a brighter future," Perl said. "It's impossible to have a sustainable future with the kind of carbon-based fossil-fuel dependence our society currently has. That doesn't mean we can turn it off immediately, but we need to start taking steps towards that future."

Perl and the urban-studies department have endorsed the "Simon Fraser University: Go Fossil Free!" movement, which seeks to change the school's investments.

Roughly 900 students on campus have signed the petition, with more than 100 teachers also signing up.

"Because it is unconscionable to pay for our education with investments that will condemn the planet to climate disaster, we call on Simon Fraser University to immediately freeze any new investment in fossil-fuel companies," the petition states.

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

A rendering of the Peninsula Club, expected to be built in Surrey by 2017. CONTRIBUTED

$50K country club to class up Surrey

The Peninsula Club.
Facility slated for 2017 to offer early discounts

EMILY JACKSON
emily.jackson@metronews.ca

The words "country club" might not come to mind when thinking of Surrey, but that's exactly what a group of well-to-do residents has in mind for a picturesque 16-acre patch of land surrounded by the river within city limits.

With tennis courts, swimming pools, squash courts, yoga studios and a farm to grow local produce for the restaurants, the Peninsula Club aims to be similar to the prestigious Arbutus Club in Vancouver and Hollyburn Country Club in West Vancouver.

And people are already clamouring to be a part of the private recreation centre even though lifetime memberships will cost $50,000.

More than 1,000 people have signed up for the distribution list to keep informed when memberships go on sale in 2014, said Mary Manning, one of the partners in the development.

Not bad considering the club isn't slated to open until 2017.

The club is expected to have about 2,500 memberships for families, singles and couples, amounting to more than 7,000 users. It plans to sell memberships at a discount before the doors open to encourage families who can't simply write $50,000 cheques to join.

Good to go

The land is already zoned for commercial recreation so a public hearing probably won't be necessary.

For those who question the appropriateness of an exclusive club in a region where the average income is less than the cost of entrance, Manning believes the centre will be a "win-win for everybody" by taking pressure off overcrowded community facilities in one of Canada's fastest growing cities.

"I appreciate that there will be more people who would like to join than will be able to," Manning said. "The city is challenged to keep up with facilities like this.... The day we will open our doors, we will have 7,000 individuals who will not be challenging the rest of the community for access to public pools and public facilities."

The facility will be built on a golf course on the agricultural land reserve at King George Boulevard and Crescent Road. The city has been incredibly supportive of the project so far, Manning said.

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Families of missing mudslide victims confront grim reality

Washington State. Authorities have acknowledged they might have to leave some victims buried

Becky Bach watches and waits, hoping that search crews find her brother and three other relatives who are missing in Washington state's deadly mudslide.

Doug Massingale waits too, for word about his 4-month-old granddaughter. Searchers were able to identify carpet from the infant's bedroom, but a log jam stood in the way of a more thorough effort to find little Sanoah Huestis. With little hope to cling to, family members of the missing are beginning to confront a grim reality: Their loved ones might never be found, remaining entombed forever inside a mountain of mud that is believed to have claimed more than 20 lives.

"It just generates so many questions if they don't find them," Bach said. "I've never known anybody to die in a natural disaster. Do they issue death certificates?"

Search crews using dogs, bulldozers and their bare hands kept slogging through the mess of broken wood and mud again Wednesday, looking for more bodies or anyone who might still be alive nearly five days after a wall of fast-moving earth destroyed a small rural community. But authorities have acknowledged they might have to leave some victims buried in the debris some 90 kilometres northeast of Seattle

Authorities on Wednesday reduced the number of people missing to 90. That number had been fluctuating — at one point reaching as high as 220 — but authorities were able to verify that dozens of people once reported missing had been located, Snohomish County Emergency Management Director John Pennington said.

Besides the 90 confirmed missing, authorities are looking into a list of 35 people who may or may not have been in the area at the time of the slide, Pennington said, adding no victims were recovered Wednesday, leaving the official death toll at 16, with an additional eight bodies located but not recovered. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"Realistically ... I honestly don't think they're going to find them alive."

Becky Bach, who has spent the past several days hoping searchers would find her brother and three relatives.

A worker uses a chainsaw at the scene of a deadly mudslide that covers the road, Wednesday, in Oso, Wash.
RICK WILKING/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Policing. Bike squad roams streets of Newton

A team of Surrey police officers traded their cars for bicycles to boost police presence in a neighbourhood plagued by crime.

The Surrey RCMP created a six-member bike squad this month in response to residents' concerns about safety in Newton after a woman was murdered during an attempted robbery at a hockey arena in January.

Clad in yellow jackets and reflectors, the team has received "encouraging" feedback in its three weeks on the job, Cpl. Neil Kennedy said Wednesday.

"Residents and business are very pleased to see us out here, and being on bikes allows us to provide a much more personalized level of policing," said Kennedy, who heads the team.

The team has arrested 13 people for an assortment of Criminal Code and drug offences and issued 35 provincial fines and bylaw tickets. One woman it pulled over for jaywalking turned out to be a prolific offender with five outstanding warrants.

All six officers come from community-policing backgrounds.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Surrey RCMP bike-squad officers make an arrest. COURTESY RCMP

Legislation. B.C. pitches municipal election reform

The B.C. government has introduced legislation to improve municipal-election transparency and accountability, but a Vancouver councillor says it doesn't go far enough.

The Ministry of Community, Sport and Cultural Development announced Wednesday that two bills have been tabled in response to recommendations made by the provincial government and the Union of B.C. Municipalities.

"It's a step which will lead to greater disclosure and more information for people, but we (Vancouver) wanted rules beyond that," said Coun. Andrea Reimer. "We wanted to see reduced spending limits, reduced contribution limits and bans on donations from corporations and unions."

Vancouver civic parties, however, have no intention of capping spending without provincial legislation.

The proposed legislation involves changes to finance rules, including requiring candidates to file campaign disclosure statements within 90 days instead of 120 days after an election. It also includes publishing disclosures online and requiring sponsors to disclose expenditures as well.

In addition to finance rules, municipal-office terms would be extended to four years from three and voting day would be moved to October as of 2018.

Reimer said municipalities were consulted and she understands other municipalities did not share Vancouver's views.

If passed, the legislation will take effect this fall.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Trans-Canada Highway

14-vehicle pileup near Golden

Fourteen vehicles, including nine tractor-trailers, were involved in a collision on the Trans-Canada Highway west of Golden on Tuesday.

The collision was caused when a tractor-trailer unit jackknifed and blocked the road. Due to snow, other vehicles were unable to stop and ran into each other. No major injuries occurred.

KAYLA ISOMURA/FOR METRO

Report

Economy on rise, says credit union

The province's economy is set to steadily rise in the next couple of years until it leaps ahead in 2016 when expected LNG-related projects get underway, says Central 1 Credit Union.

The key findings of its report: The Canadian dollar will average 87 cents US by 2018, possibly lower, and the jobless rate will fall to below five per cent by 2017.

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

Sculptor Hugo França sits on a bench he carved out of a reclaimed tree in Squamish. COURTESY TAÍS RIBEIRO & ATELIER HUGO FRANÇA

Vancouver Biennale hitting the beach

April. Brazilian artist transforming recovered wood into sculptures, benches

Soon Vancouverites will be able to enjoy the beach on furniture carved out of salvaged trees by a famous Brazilian sculptor.

Artist Hugo França will use recovered local wood to build sculptures and benches at Spanish Banks Beach, Kits Beach, Sunset Beach and English Bay starting next week as part of the third Vancouver Biennale, an 18-month rotation of large-scale public art across Metro Vancouver.

França is already in Squamish with his chainsaw to convert massive trunks and roots into art pieces, marking the first time the artist has created sculptures outside Brazil. Passersby will be able to watch him as he sculpts on the beach, where many of his pieces will remain as part of the legacy of the Biennale.

França is the first artist to hit Vancouver's streets for this round of the Biennale, the art event responsible for bringing a variety of beloved works to the city, including the laughing statues in English Bay.

This time around, organizers are hoping to turn the artwork into "community experiential projects" where residents can either help with the art or, as in França's case, see it transform over several weeks, spokeswoman Miriam Blume said.

Twenty-five to 35 pieces of artwork will come to Vancouver, Squamish, North Vancouver and New Westminster for this Biennale, including a piece by superstar artist Ai Weiwei.

Most of the locations have yet to be determined.

"As you can imagine, some of these sculptures are several tonnes," Blume said, so organizers must work with the park board to get approval. They also conduct public consultation to ensure the artwork is welcome in a neighbourhood.

In 2008, outrage over an inverted church sculpture in Coal Harbour prompted the city to remove the artwork.

The installations hit the streets one after another instead of all at once to give the community a chance to engage with them all, Blume said.

EMILY JACKSON/METRO

Cops try to clamp down on lasers pointed at pilots

Guess what, kids? If you're caught directing a laser pointer at a plane in flight, you could be facing criminal charges and a $100,000 fine.

For the past few years, pilot reports to Transport Canada and the RCMP of people shooting laser pointers at flying planes have been steadily on the rise.

It might seem trivial to some, but it has resulted in pilots losing their licence to fly after suffering eye damage, according to Richmond RCMP Sgt. Cam Kowalski.

"You're putting the pilot and the passengers in danger when you do that," Kowalski said. "Because what it does is the laser hits the shield of the aircraft and it refracts. Now if it's nighttime and a pilot has night vision on, you can cause instant retinal damage to those pilots."

In 2013 there were 443 reports of pilots being hit with laser pointers in Canada, 68 of which happened in the Vancouver area, according to Kowalski.

"The numbers aren't doubling or tripling every year, but it's been steadily rising," he said.

Kowalski and the RCMP are working with Nav Canada to co-ordinate immediate action as reports come in, and so far this has led to four arrests.

But what Kowalski would like to see is a halt in laser-pointer incidents altogether.

"The information we want to get out is to the people who don't understand, the people with some naivety that just see a moving target," Kowalski said. "This is a real issue. You are putting lives in danger and it can result in a myriad of different charges."

Mischief, criminal negligence, endangering an aircraft, assault causing bodily harm and hefty fines rising to $100,000 are all options, Kowalski said.

SAM SMITH/FOR METRO

Chow to Ford: 'It's time to take down the circus tent'

Toronto. Scandal-plagued mayor accused of having made the city 'an international embarrassment' during live televised debate

Toronto Mayor Rob Ford, right, laughs next to David Soknacki as they take part in a mayoral debate in Toronto on Wednesday. NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Toronto's scandal-plagued mayor held his own against several concerted attacks during Wednesday's first televised mayoral debate as he seeks to stay in office come October.

Rob Ford, who frequently rolled his eyes, stared at the ceiling and flashed grins at the audience, defended his fiscal record as he shot back at the candidates vying to replace him.

"Four years ago, I was elected to stop the gravy train," Ford said, thumping a familiar drum. "I have stopped the gravy train."

Former NDP MP Olivia Chow was quick to shoot him down: "It's time for you to go because your gravy train has turned into a train wreck," Chow said. "You need to pack up that nonsense you're talking about."

Chow was the first candidate to allude directly to, but not mention, Ford's well-known problems — including smoking crack and spouting obscenities on live TV — that have made him talk-show fodder and made him a recognizable name around the world.

Ford was frequently content to let the others debate among themselves, but didn't hesitate to jump in.

Former provincial PC party leader John Tory said Ford had "run out of gas" given his inability to get anything through a council that has stripped him of most of his powers. He accused the mayor of letting taxpayers down and ruining the city's reputation.

Mostly, though, it was Chow and Ford who went at each other during the two-hour debate. "It's time to take down the circus tent at city hall," Chow said, saying the mayor had made Toronto "an international embarrassment."

Voters will choose whether Ford remains in office on Oct. 27. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Up for debate

"We've had it with the scandals and lack of truth. It's time to go because you're embarrassing our city." Olivia Chow, to Rob Ford

Grain. Legislation tabled by Ottawa aims to clear transportation backlog

The federal government has tabled legislation aimed at increasing the movement of grain that has been left sitting in bins across the Prairies due to a transportation bottleneck.

The legislation proposes the Canadian Grain Commission regulate how much a grain company will pay to a farmer if the company doesn't meet delivery dates set out in a contract.

It also aims to extend what are called inter-switching limits from 30 kilometres to 160 kilometres in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan.

Most grain elevators on the Prairies are only served by one railway and expanding inter-switching would allow more service by more rail companies.

Another change would enshrine a previous government order for Canadian National and Canadian Pacific railways to move a minimum amount of grain or face a penalty of up to $100,000 a day.

The legislation would not increase the penalty or direct fines to farmers instead of federal coffers, which is what Saskatchewan and Alberta have called for.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

A national priority

NDP Leader Thomas Mulcair has said the prime minister has to make unclogging the backlog of grain a national priority or lose Canada's place in the world market.

- The leader of the Opposition says Canada's reputation is being damaged by its inability to get last year's bumper crop to market.
- He says countries like Japan are going to start looking to the United States since Canada doesn't seem to be able to get its grain to port.

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Zoo kills four lions

Copenhagen. This cull has put the zoo on the defensive again, a month after it killed a healthy giraffe

The director of Copenhagen Zoo, Steffen Straede, stands in front of two lionesses. JENS DRESLING/POLFOTO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A Danish zoo on Wednesday defended its decision to kill two aging lions and two cubs, citing the risk of inbreeding and the arrival of a new male.

This week's cull has put the Copenhagen Zoo on the defensive again, a month after it infuriated animal rights activists by killing a healthy giraffe, dissecting it in public and feeding it to the lions.

In a statement, the zoo said it had to put down the lions to make room for the new three-year-old male, saying it wouldn't have been accepted by the pride if the older male, 16, were still around.

"Furthermore we couldn't risk that the male lion mated with the old female as she was too old to be mated with again due to the fact that she would have difficulties with birth and parental care of another litter," the zoo said.

The zoo said the cubs were put down because they couldn't fend for themselves and the new male would likely kill them.

In February, the zoo faced protests and even death threats after it killed a two-year-old giraffe, citing the need to prevent inbreeding.

Each year, thousands of animals are euthanized in European zoos for a variety of reasons. Zoo managers say their job is to preserve species, not individual animals.

Zoo officials hope the new male and two females born in 2012 will form the nucleus of a new pride.

The deaths drew protests on social media, including an online petition with nearly 50,000 signatures Wednesday calling on the zoo to stop killing healthy animals.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zoo as tough as nature

Zoo officials hope the new male and two females born in 2012 will form the nucleus of a new pride.

- They said the culling "may seem harsh, but in nature (it) is necessary to ensure a strong pride of lions."

More objects seen in ocean

Malaysian Remote Sensing Agency graphic shows objects in the south Indian Ocean. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A French satellite scanning the Indian Ocean for remnants of a missing jetliner found a possible plane-debris field containing 122 objects, a top Malaysian official said Wednesday, calling it "the most credible lead that we have."

Defence Minister Hishammuddin Hussein said the objects were more than 2,500 kilometres southwest of Australia, in the area where a desperate multinational hunt has been going on since other satellites detected possible jet debris.

Clouds obscured the latest satellite images, but dozens of objects could be seen in the gaps, ranging in length from one metre to 23 metres. Hishammuddin said some of them "appeared to be bright, possibly indicating solid materials."

The images were taken Sunday. Various floating objects have been spotted by planes and satellites over the last week.

Recovering any part of the plane will be tough because of the sheer depth of the ocean — much of it between about 3,000-4,500 metres deep in the search area.

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Chance

Upheaval is coming for First Nations schools. The federal government is planning to invest nearly $2 billion into the neglected system and give communities more control over their own education. Metro travelled to two on-reserve schools to document their condition, the details of the plan and why many people say the proposed changes may be their kids' last chance.

Critics speak

They threw out our work, say Liberals

Despite Prime Minister Stephen Harper's claim that his First Nations education bill is "historic" and "long overdue," Carolyn Bennett remembers when the Liberal Party made a similar attempt years ago.

The aboriginal affairs critic and Toronto MP pointed to the 2005 Kelowna Accord, a broad-sweeping piece of legislation that sought to close the gap between First Nations communities and the rest of Canadian society.

It was scrapped in 2007 in a vote after the Conservatives were elected.

"The fact that the Kelowna Accord was thrown out was very upsetting," Bennett told Metro. "The Liberals are serious about this and want to carry on the work that was begun with Kelowna."

Bennett also had few kind words for how the current government formulated its First Nations education bill. She called the initial attempt, which was introduced in November and is now undergoing revision, a complete disaster.

"There needs to be an understanding that bottom-up is the only way this will work," she said. "More paternalism and more tablets coming down from on high just serves to irritate people such that they can't even hear what you're saying."

"More paternalism and more tablets coming down from on high just serves to irritate people."

While Bennett conceded that Harper's promise of $1.9 billion for on-reserve education over seven years is comparable to former Liberal Prime Minister Paul Martin's promise of $1.7 billion over five years, she focused her criticism on how each administration arrived at the conclusion.

"(The Kelowna Accord) started with hundreds of people in a room, deciding what will be the priorities and then dividing up into working groups and 18 months later coming up with a real plan with the dollars attached," she explained.

By contrast, she said, the Conservatives have imposed their views without proper consultation and have delayed the injection of funds into the system.

"We found out when the budget was tabled those monies won't fall until next year," she said. "So in some ways it was one step forward and two steps back."

However, Bennett added there is some evidence the Conservatives have been listening and eagerly awaits the release of the newly drafted document.

"This is about fixing the greatest social injustice in Canada," she said.

JACOB MORGAN/METRO IN SASKATOON

Toronto MP and Liberal critic for aboriginal affairs Carolyn Bennett CONTRIBUTED

The First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act. Metro tracks down answers to the big questions about the government's solution

JACOB MORGAN
Metro in Saskatoon

How much will it cost?

That's the main question.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper has committed a total of $1.9 billion. This includes $1.25 billion to run the system beginning in 2016 and increasing 4.5 per cent annually, $500 million for infrastructure over seven years beginning in 2015 as well as $160 million for transitional costs over four years beginning in 2015.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations, tells Metro the 4.5 per cent escalator is a step in the right direction.

"We've been advocating for years to break the two per cent cap," said Atleo, referring to the limit placed on education funding increases in the '90s, which doesn't adequately account for inflation and population growth.

What will curriculum look like at on-reserve schools?

One of the prime minister's catchphrases is "a comparable system." The goal is to create First Nations curriculums and high school diploma qualifications that parallel those offered in non-aboriginal schools.

In addition, the government has promised to continue consulting with indigenous communities — after its original draft proposal was met with condemnation last fall — to incorporate language and cultural programs that reflect the unique heritage of all 633 First Nations across the country.

"We said we needed resources for language and culture, (and) they've identified that they put that in that $1.9-billion budget announcement that they made," said Atleo.

Shawn Atleo, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations
THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE

"The overriding goal of the legislation is better outcomes for First Nation students. First Nations and the Government of Canada agree that this is best achieved through First Nations control."
— Government of Canada website

How will the new act change control of First Nations education?

Until now the Indian Act has governed First Nations education. Since the end of the residential school era, Ottawa has directly administered the system.

The new bill will create First Nations education authorities, which will function similarly to school boards in the provincial system. Authorities will govern schools on a local level and ensure they meet national and provincial standards.

Bernard Valcourt, minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development, tells Metro that First Nations communities will appoint their own authorities, which can represent an area or a single school.

"I don't want to control education," said Valcourt. "I want First Nations to control education and First Nations will have options."

Will there be accountability?

The First Nations education authorities will oversee administrators and require annual reports. The regular reporting is designed to ensure teachers are certified and standards are met.

Atleo said accountability is a two-way street and both sides are responsible.

"They moved away from requiring or suggesting ministerial oversight," he said. "Now we're talking about reciprocal accountability."

Valcourt added that First Nations

to act

education systems "will have to be accountable to their community, to the parents, to the kids and not to the federal government."

Who opposes this?

There are numerous groups across Canada opposing the bill. One example is the Onion Lake Cree Nation in the Treaty No. 6 Territory.

Diana Steinhauer holds a PhD degree in indigenous knowledge from the Blue Quills First Nations College and works in governance at Onion Lake. Her official title is ka-nikanapistahk, which she says is Cree for "those who can't speak for themselves, and it refers to the ones who aren't here yet: the animals, the plants, the birds."

Steinhauer explained that Onion Lake rejects the education act and any form of legislation that impedes on their sovereignty.

"We have our inherent jurisdiction over education and we're not going to relinquish it," she said.

The government is not in a position to hand over control, said Steinhauer, because treaty-rights holders should already have that power.

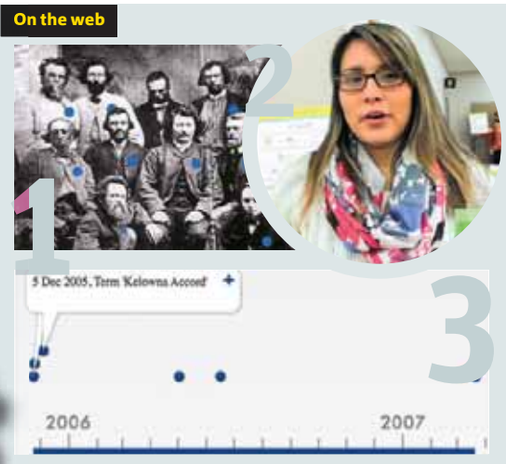
"It's not their jurisdiction to be telling us what to do," she said.

She added that the AFN doesn't speak for Onion Lake, as "it's not an inherent rights holder, it's an organization developed and funded by the government."

> "The legislation will require that First Nation schools ... award widely recognized diplomas or certificates. These requirements do not currently exist."
> — Government of Canada website

BERNARD VALCOURT, MINISTER OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT

On the web



1 Blue dot. A sign of defiance
Find out how a little blue sticker became a symbol of protest for opponents of the act. CHRISTI BELCOURT/TWITTER

2 Youth. Beyond the politics
Head over to metronews.ca to see what attendees at the Assembly of First Nations Youth Summit had to say about their learning experiences.

3 Timeline. Scrapped attempt
Go online to see an interactive timeline of the quashed Kelowna Accord and hear from the national co-chair of the Liberals' Aboriginal Peoples' Commission.

Critics speak

Too much we don't know, says NDP

MORGAN MODJESKI
Metro in Saskatoon

The aboriginal affairs critic for Canada's opposition party has "major concerns" about the federal government's plan to improve First Nations education.

Announced back in February, the First Nations Control of First Nations Education Act would inject more than $1.9 billion in additional funding to address a financial shortfall for on-reserve education, starting in 2015.

But critics of the bill have questions on how — and when — the act will be implemented.

"We actually haven't seen any legislation at this point, and what my concern is, is that the process of how this is going to be drafted is unclear," said Jean Crowder, aboriginal affairs critic for the New Democratic Party.

"From our perspective, you can't draft this legislation without having First Nations at the table."

Although the federal government held eight face-to-face consultations, 54 informational briefings and received 631 responses to an online survey while drafting the original First Nations Education Act, it was widely rejected.

> "I don't know if there's two people in a closed room putting it together."

And with the federal government's recent announcement having little information on how First Nations will be consulted, Crowder said it's hard to know what its outcome will be.

Jean Crowder, NDP critic for aboriginal affairs CONTRIBUTED

"I don't know if there's two people in a closed room putting it together, whether it's going to have regional representation from across the country," she said.

While Crowder feels the government's acknowledgment of the funding gap is a step in the right direction, the fact money doesn't start flowing until after the 2015 federal election raises questions for her and her supporters.

"I can't speak to their motivation on it, but judging by the emails and letters I'm getting in my office, nobody's being fooled," she said.

"People recognize the money doesn't flow until after a federal election, and given past history, just because people say one thing before an election doesn't mean they're going to do the same thing after.

"I think the timing is very suspicious," she said.

But Bernard Valcourt, federal minister of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada, says the act has nothing to do with the upcoming election.

"I dismiss these charges ... (of) pure political partisanship on (the) part of the people who would rather not have us in government.

"A lot of work has been done. This has been evaluated and looked at by First Nations all across Canada. We've received their views, we've got the AFN resolution, we've got the open letter of the national chief and we have identified a way forward."

Police chiefs, mental health leaders gather to discuss how to prevent tragedies

It's a national conversation that's finally taking place.

Amid growing concern over how police deal with some of society's most vulnerable, law enforcement officials, those who live with mental illness and those who support them have gathered to discuss how to avert tragedies during crises.

That dialogue, deemed the first of its kind, comes at a time when statistics suggest one in five Canadians experience a mental health illness in any given year.

"It's a major step forward and a very bold step forward," said Louise Bradley, CEO of the Mental Health Commission of Canada, host of the conference in Toronto with the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police.

One of the key issues police and mental health advocates have to grapple with is the lack of national standards: There isn't a countrywide training curriculum for officers on how to deal with the mentally ill, nor is there comprehensive data collected on the issue.

Vancouver police Chief Jim Chu, who's also president of the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police, says "police are increasingly becoming the mental health response agency of first resort."

A primary goal at the conference is information sharing to find out what works well and confront what doesn't.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Conservative MP Steven Fletcher speaks with the media as he leaves caucus on Parliament Hill on Wednesday. ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tory MP preps euthanasia bill

Former cabinet minister. Quadriplegic Steven Fletcher to table assisted-suicide proposal against government policy

Quoted

"I'm not in any hurry to reopen that issue."

Justice Minister Peter MacKay, expressing his disinterest in debating assisted suicide in the House of Commons.

A former Conservative cabinet minister who was left paralyzed from the neck down by a 1996 car crash plans to introduce two private member's bills that would allow assisted suicide in some cases.

Steven Fletcher, a Manitoba MP who was dropped from the federal cabinet last summer, is going against government policy with his legislation.

One of Fletcher's two bills would, if passed, allow doctors to help people end their lives under certain restricted circumstances. The second would set up a commission to monitor the system.

The legislation is likely to face a tough time in the Commons, which last looked at the issue in 2010 and voted against it by a wide margin.

The Supreme Court of Canada, which in 1993 narrowly ruled against Sue Rodriguez in her much-debated bid for assisted suicide, has agreed to hear another British Columbia right-to-die case this spring. Rodriguez, who had amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, took her own life in 1994 with the help of an anonymous doctor.

Fletcher said polls suggest Canadians in general support the idea. A Quebec bill on the issue died three weeks ago when the provincial election was called. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Saga of the sweet, then sour stock debut

Characters of the King Digital Entertainment game Candy Crush Saga walk the trading floor of the New York Stock Exchange before the company's IPO Wednesday. The festive move didn't last. King's stock priced at $22.50 US on Tuesday, valuing the company at $7.1 billion, but it opened on Wednesday at $20.50, down almost nine per cent. Its shares lost more ground by the day's close, falling more than 15 per cent. King Digital Entertainment PLC had $1.88 billion in revenue last year. That's more than 10 times its 2012 revenue of $164.4 million. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BlackBerry beckons business with security software in BYOD era

Bring your own device. As more staffers use personal phones to conduct business, the Waterloo tech firm aims to provide peace of mind

BlackBerry Ltd. has received certification for U.S. government employees to use its Secure Work Space enterprise software on iPhones and devices that use the Android operating system.

The technology is part of products that became available through the rollout of its BlackBerry 10 operating system.

The Waterloo, Ont.-based company says the software helps government and business employees use mobile devices of their choice with lower security risks.

The certification will give security-conscious organizations, like U.S. and Canadian government agencies, the ability to use software that separates sensitive corporate data from personal content on a single mobile device.

More technology companies have been chasing the lucrative business market as BlackBerry's popularity waned. Both Google and Apple developed their own enterprise software designed to attract government agencies and corporations. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market Minute

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TSX
14,184.10 (-115.39)

OIL
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GOLD
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Natural gas: $4.39 US (-$0.01)
Dow Jones: 16,268.99 (-98.89)

Airbag issue

Nissan recalls 60,000 vehicles in Canada

Nissan is recalling about 60,000 cars, SUVs and minivans in Canada because the front passenger airbags may not inflate in a crash. The announcement is part of a broader recall.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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I SURRENDER, MOTHER NATURE

HE SAYS

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca

OK, winter, I give up.

Forget discontent. This is the winter of our disbelief.

Mother Nature went from her usual fickle and frigid self to full-on cruel and cold-hearted. Bing Crosby's White Christmas gave way long ago to Game of Thrones' Winter Without End. Jack Frost bit my nose off and spat it in my face.

We were once in a snow globe, but now we're trapped Under the Dome, scratching at the glass and screaming for anyone to let us out.

As I write this, the Maritimes is being hit with the sort of storm that usually gives rise to over-the-top, two-word blends like polar vortex, frostquake or snowpocalypse. By the time you read this, the blizzard may well be known as a Sleet Scream, The Parthenon Freeze or Icetrocity 2014.

Meanwhile, in Toronto, it's been cold for so long that my friends and I are deeply excited that the forecast for the week includes such mercies as 10 degrees and rainy, which will give us at least one day to dream that we're Vancouverites adrift in a warmish sea of cappuccinos and cannabis.

(This column is least relevant for Vancouver residents, but just replace the word "snow" with "rain," the word "cold" with "drab" and the words "We're all in this together" with "Get bent.")

The predicted improvement from insufferable weather to unpleasant weather had given me hope that things were improving, but then I saw a new headline on Wednesday: "WINTER-LIKE WEATHER TO CONTINUE UNTIL AT LEAST MID-APRIL."

It's funny how your eyes play tricks on you, because when I first glanced at the headline I read it as "LEAP FROM THE BUILDING IMMEDIATELY." I thought about it, but figured the snow would probably break my fall anyway.

Which leads me back to my original thought: I give up. I have no more rage, no more despair to give. The tears only freeze on my face. The seven-day forecast has pushed me through the seven stages of grief and it's time to accept my frosty fate.

I accept that it's going to be winter forever. And I for one welcome our new, flakey overlords.

Why, winter year-round will be grand.

Patio weather will be any time we want, there'll be no annoying change of car tires, no suffering through another bus-stop simpleton asking, "Hot enough for ya?"

Hockey in June will make perfect sense, the cars-versus-bikes feud will end, and a balaclava will provide all the SPF protection you need.

No smog, no humidity, no insects. No summer love means no summer heartbreaks.

Endless winter will mean being comfortably numb, with smiles frozen on our faces.

I give up, winter. You win. I am yours, and you're all right.

A naysayer might claim I have Stockholm syndrome, but I checked. It's 14 and sunny there.

Uncle, Mother Nature. Uncle.

ZOOM

10,000-calorie, beastly burger

Substantial sandwich inspired by a cartoon

The 10,000-calorie whopper, dubbed the Ulti-Meatum, was cooked up by restaurant owners Corinne and John Clarkson after seeing the meat feast on Cartoon Network's The Regular Show.

The monster meal includes five pounds (2.2 kilograms) of meat and a cheeseburger within a burger just like in the children's animation. The owners of the Mister Eaters fish and chips restaurant in Preston, England, are offering up a man-versus-food challenge where daring punters can eat for free if they can finish the burger in one sitting. METRO

TWITTER:@TORGANDELLIOTT

Q & A with John Clarkson, one of the creators

Special plate needed to hold it

Was this as much a personal challenge as anything else?
Yeah, I enjoy it and it's a bit of fun. I'm a butcher by trade and I'm familiar with meat and how it sticks together, so I thought I'll have a go. We've done the world's biggest deep-fried Ferrero Rocher at 11 pounds (five kilograms) in weight and that went global, so I thought I could do the same with this. It gets people talking; the shop's been overwhelmed.

Did you have any problems building the burger?
We had three or four flops. I had to design a plate with pins that are the same height as the burger, so that it doesn't topple over. The thing with my burger is that it's not messy when you cut it open — you get a really nice cross-section as you can see in the picture.

Clickbait

ANDREW FIFIELD
andrew.fifield@metronews.ca

The Oculus Rift VR helmet's splashy debut on the tech conference circuit helped make it one of the most successful Kickstarters of all time, eventually leading to Facebook's $2B purchase of Oculus on Tuesday. So it looks like VR is about ready to become a thing, and these movies available on Netflix will provide a nice glimpse of the nightmarish future it will usher in.

The Oculus Rift virtual reality headset THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

eXistenz:
Jennifer Jason Leigh and Jude Law star as a video game designer and her protégé who flit between virtual worlds while avoiding assassins determined to hunt them down in this sci-fi brain bender from David Cronenberg. It's truly weird and wonderful.

Strange Days:
A gem lying among the junk of mid-'90s cyber-paranoia flicks, the Kathryn Bigelow-directed Strange Days is the story of a former cop who stumbles across a high-profile murder among his collection of virtual reality clips, wrapping him up in a manhunt across an L.A. that has disintegrated into a war zone as the calendar heads toward the year 2000.

Evolver:
Here is where we veer decidedly into B-movie territory when an elite gamer gets a chance to play a live version of his favourite video game. Naturally, this leads to big, violent problems when he finds himself battling a ruthlessly efficient killer robot.

Twitter

@metropicks asked: A US$297 course called conscious uncoupling promises a happy breakup. Would you pay?

@Canucklehead_ca: Why pay to have the cow sent back to pasture when you can simply give up milk for free?

@prussell_pc: I have paid .. far more. This program takes two to un-tango, and so wouldn't have worked for me.

@AnyaZub: That's like four bottles of whiskey,cover charge and two rounds at the bar for me and two of my best friends.

Follow @metropicks and take part in our daily poll.

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Mies Julie: A deadly struggle over power, sexuality and memory

Bongile Mantsai and Hilda Cronje star in Mies Julie, running until April 19 at the Cultch Theatre. COURTESY MURDO MACLEOD

The Cultch. South African production lauded by both the New York Times and the Guardian

BACKSTAGE PASS
Graeme McRanor
vancouver@metronews.ca

In April, South Africa celebrates 20 years of freedom and democracy, so it's a perfect time to stage Mies Julie, a South African production that was an audience favourite at its international premiere at the 2012 Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

The play — produced by the Baxter Theatre Centre and written and directed by Yael Farber — is an adaptation of August Strindberg's Miss Julie set in a Cape Karoo kitchen amid a deadly struggle over power, sexuality, memory, mothers and land.

It's an acclaimed touring production and was named one of 2012's top five productions by the Guardian newspaper and made the New York Times' top 10.

The play had its Canadian premiere earlier this week at The Cultch's Historic Theatre (1895 Venables St.). Don't worry, it's there until April 19.

Tickets start at $31. Q&A sessions with the artists are on April 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 and 16.

Also at The Cultch (until March 30): Based on the myth and impact of Burroughs and the beats, Jayson McDonald's Underbelly takes the audience on a "hallucinatory journey of language, imagery, and an entire generation."

Sounds far out, man.

A critic's pick from the Vancouver International Fringe Festival. Tickets $31.

Online

More information about all these shows can be found at TheCultch.com.

And you still have a few days to check out Floyd Collins at the York Theatre.

Set in 1925 Kentucky, it's based on the life of the American explorer and entrepreneur who, in search for the ultimate tourist attraction, found himself trapped 100 feet underground.

I'm not sure what there is to sing about way down there, but the musical — presented by Patrick Street Productions and Talk is Free Theatre — is at the York until Sunday. So now's the time to find out.

Three Days in Havana takes 25 years

New film. Drama filmed in Cuba was quarter of a century in the making

STEVE GOW
scene@metronews.ca

Greg Wise and Gil Bellows. CONTRIBUTED

In Gil Bellows' new drama Three Days in Havana, Cuba plays as much a character as the Canadian actor's ill-fated protagonist.

"What a beautiful, dynamic place to be," said Bellows from Los Angeles. "What prompted us to tell this kind of story was to put a character in an environment that would feel foreign to him and to an audience and make it take on this personality of its own so it could be mysterious and sexy and comical."

Reminiscent of the suspense-filled films of Alfred Hitchcock, the movie tells the tale of an insurance executive who heads to Havana only to find himself embroiled in a mysterious murder plot after meeting an ebullient but evasive writer in the Cuban capital.

"We went twice to scout (and) found all our locations, our actors, all the good places to eat and good places to listen to music and hang out," said Bellows who co-wrote and co-directed the film with creative partner Tony Pantages. "We tried to squeeze every ounce of our experience and put it into the film."

In essence, Three Days in Havana took nearly a quarter of a century to bring to the big screen. Pantages and Bellows (who may best be recognized for his role on TV's Ally McBeal) first decided to make a movie when both were still struggling actors. After finding inspiration with this story in 2010, the pair took the unusual strategy of writing a treatment to send to 10 different writers to interpret their own version.

"Ultimately we shaped and carved and rewrote but it gave us the opportunity to mine and tap into the imaginations and creativity of a bunch of people who we wanted to work with," said Bellows. "We (wanted this to be) both the celebration of 25 years of friendship and at the same time the grand experiment — and that part of it *was* a grand experiment."

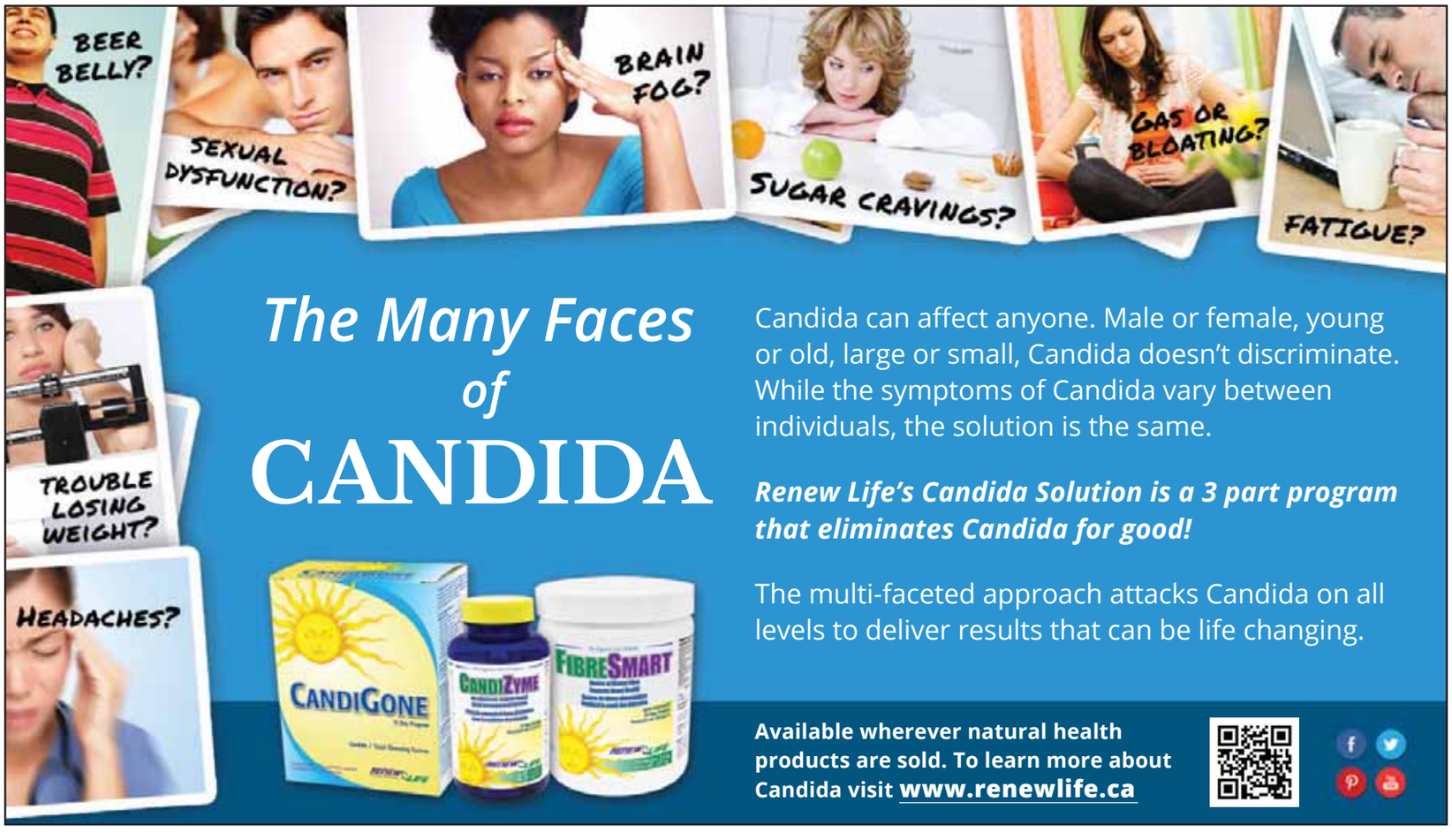
Quoted

"What prompted us to tell this kind of story was to put a character in an environment that would feel foreign to him and to an audience and make it take on this personality of its own so it could be mysterious and sexy and comical."

Actor and director Gil Bellows

Bellows on:

- **His inspirations:** "The Coen Brothers, (Alfred) Hitchcock, (Michael-angelo) Antonioni. Those were the three big ones."
- **Directing:** "I've sort of toyed with directing a few different times and I like it. I definitely want to incorporate the opportunity to do it a few more times with some stories I'm eager to do."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Selena Gomez ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Selena, stop hitting repeat-peat-peat on that relationship: Parents

Selena Gomez's parents are reportedly gearing up for another intervention for the former Disney star, hoping a return trip to rehab and distance from on-again, off-again boyfriend Justin Bieber will get her back on the straight and narrow, according to Life & Style Weekly. Their last attempts to convince Gomez to seek help for anxiety and alleged substance abuse issues went well, with Gomez voluntarily checking into the Meadows treatment facility in Arizona — but she checked herself out two weeks later to rush to Bieber's side in the wake of his legal troubles. And she's been spotted with the troubled Canadian pop star regularly since then, most recently this past weekend in L.A. when she stopped by the Sunset Towers Hotel for a quick visit with Bieber. Sources tell the magazine that Gomez's parents want her to ditch Bieber for good and head back to Meadows to complete her six-week program.

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word

That's so tweet: Martin and Paltrow make peace with a painting

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

What should a sensitive GOOP-ified husband do to comfort his soon-to-be-ex-beloved in their time of conscious uncoupling? Put a bird on it, of course.

Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow are clearly making an effort to ensure that even their divorce is expensive and classy. Apparently Coldplay front man Martin even bought Paltrow a parting gift — an etching of a bird by Polish artist Mila Fürstová, created as cover art for a Coldplay album, a source told the Daily Mail.

"The fighting is over now, there's no bitterness. They're actually going to have some fun," the source said.

There's the picture above. It's pretty cool and the sort of thing that Chris Martin and Gwyneth Paltrow would have in their living room.

It seems unfair that even their divorce is cooler than me. Or maybe not: Mila Fürstová's staff denies that Chris Martin bought one of her works "as a gift or for any other reason."

Twitter

@Pink
I'm hearing I've been hacked... I hope "I" didn't say something out of line. Can I always say I've been hacked now? When I do that?

@samantharonson
Just found a piece of cheese in my sleeve- in case you were wondering how this not smoking thing is going.

@solangeknowles
This damn taxi driver... This tweet sponsored by "Shade"

Judd Apatow and Lena Dunham

Apatow admits Girls could have been a lot more graphic

While Lena Dunham's hit HBO series Girls has often been criticized for how far it goes as far as sexual content, producer Judd Apatow reveals that apparently they've wanted to go even farther. "There have been things on Girls where HBO has said to us, 'If we put this on TV, we literally could lose our license to broadcast," Apatow told a group of college students at an event in Los Angeles, according to the New York Post. "Let's just say it's something you see in adult film — elements of sexual intercourse. The high points of sexual intercourse." Maybe they can save that for the DVD.

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LIFE 3

5 who stitched their story into a style career

Fashion, at its purest, is about telling stories. And the best storytellers are ones with tales to tell themselves. Here, we look at five individuals making waves in the Canadian fashion industry while weaving their own experiences into the mix.

SIGRID FORBERG
life@metronews.ca

Nana Osei

Designer, Bôhten Eyeglasses Inc.

It was on a trip to Ghana in 2009 that Nana Osei saw an opportunity to combine his passions for social responsibility and fashion. While still in university in Ottawa, he created Bôhten Eyeglasses Inc. The lightweight eyewear, made of reclaimed wood from West Africa and handcrafted in zero-waste facilities in Canada, have been drawing national attention. He's even appeared on the Dragon's Den. In the future, Osei hopes to bring the manufacturing to Africa as well. "People say there's nothing you can do about some things, but I say it always just starts small," says Osei.

Meredith Wright

Filmmaker, Agency

After modelling for several years around the world, and being turned off by the way models were treated everywhere she went, Wright wanted to expose some of the darker sides of the industry. The end result was Agency, a documentary about young girls working for a modelling agency in Japan. Shot through Wright's own perspective, living in an apartment with fellow models in Osaka, Japan, the film aims to get people asking questions about the industry they normally wouldn't. "If I told someone that underage girls were working with no representation, they would be upset," says Wright. "So why is it OK when it's for fashion?"

Lolitta Dandoy

Blogger, Fashion is Everywhere

With a mix of French and English posts on Fashion is Everywhere, Dandoy is the quintessential Montrealer. As a fashion journalist, she'd always wanted to start her own publication. Faced with a cancer diagnosis several years ago, while convalescing at home, she decided to go for it. Surrounded by so much creativity in Montreal, she tries to capture an awareness in her blog that the fashion community *is* in fact a community and has a greater meaning beyond superficial consumerism. "When somebody doesn't feel right in their skin, a lot of that can have to do with their appearance," says Dandoy. "It can change things you don't expect."

Julia Che

President, Lotus Leaf Communications

After studying fashion communications at Ryerson University, Che was working in public relations in Toronto when she noticed a friend, who is a talented jewelry designer, needed help promoting her product. Thus, Lotus Leaf Communications was born. They now represent big-name clients like 7 For All Mankind, Dr. Martens and Manitobah Mukluks. And while they've grown exponentially from that first client, at the end of the day, Che has used the company's success to give back to the community, "Agents of Change is a branch of Lotus Leaf," says Che. "Through it, we can use our expertise to increase awareness about social issues."

Jigme Nehring

Founder, Mine & Yours

After living in Los Angeles, where the buy-sell-trade concept is common, Jigme Nehring decided to bring the model to Vancouver. Her resale shop, Mine & Yours is a place where women can purchase, sell or trade their gently used clothing. Nehring emphasizes the business's aspect of giving women the chance to recycle and find good homes for items that might otherwise collect dust in the back of their closets. The trouble with the fashion industry, Nehring explains, is the amount of waste it produces, which the shop aims to help negate as much as possible. "Mine & Yours helps reduce waste by extending the life of great pieces that are still in style and encouraging people to buy used clothing over new," says Nehring.

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Yet another birthday wish! Stretching my birthday week all the way to #Montreal @la_societe with Bek+Keith+Mel.

With Igndry Cdn designer Marilyn Brooks who surprised me today @theshoecompany 1st designer I ever wore! #jeannexsco

Canadian street style

Spotted in: Toronto

Name: Natasha Taylor

Age: 27

Occupation: Project manager and professional dancer

What she's wearing:
H&M tuque, J. Crew Gingham button up, my boyfriend's sweater from Jack & Jones, faux leather zipper leggings from GUESS, Top Shop wedge booties, neon Cambridge style bag from Forever 21.

Her inspiration:
I'm a bit of a tomboy at heart but I also like to incorporate feminine flare. My style is heavily influenced by British street style as well as dancers from the dance community in Toronto.

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Trends Report

Floral fashion dominated the runways from New York to Milan for this season, just in time for spring, despite the prolonged cold weather. Go online to Trends Report to see how to wear pretty petals, from haute couture gowns to casual wear.

- **Online.** Follow Irene on Twitter at @MetroIreneK or Instagram: kuanirene; metronews.ca/voices/trends-report

Photo: Getty Images

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BCIT PART-TIME STUDIES

Conversation-starter table toppers

What goes on top of the books on the coffee table? Here are a few on-trend pieces designed to charm guests

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

ALL PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Work a little black crystal magic

Keep secrets stashed in a hand-polished soapstone container topped with black resin crystals. Eduardo Garza Crystal Box, $70, WestElm.com

Add sparkle with a shape-shifter

Chiselled and oblique-shaped golden tea-light holder changes its shape from all views. GlucksteinHome Sydney Large Tea-light Holder, $18, TheBay.com

Set the scene

The coffee table is the centre of attention in any living room. Not only does it offer a place to set a martini (or a slew of TV converters) but also tells guests a bit about you. Your interests can easily be seen in the types of books you read or the style of accessories on display. Here are some ideas to add caché.

Spur them on with silver cactus

A unique decorative take on the classic cacti: Plants that shine on and require no watering. Metalico Barrel Cactus, $16-19, UrbanBarn.com

Hurricane candle creates style storm

Hurricane pillar candle, holder of natural wood and glass, makes for mid-century style. Whole-Home Contemporary Glass Candle Holder, $40, Sears.ca

A golden opportunity to raise the bar

The perfect amount of bling to top a coffee table book. Gold Bar Paperweight, $65, thedesigncross.com

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Design: From trash to good taste

With the world at risk of turning into one big landfill site, we look at ways we can rework, repurpose and reconstitute old junk. Here are our top recycled redesigns

RICHARD PECKETT
Metro World News

Old glass gets new class

Kleptomaniacs, let there be light. Yes, clutter can become classic with this light-bulb inspiration. Get your hands on one of those dust-collecting planters, pots or glass bottles from your garage or window sill, clean it up and have it cut to size (the DIY delinquents among you might need help with this).

FRESHOME.COM

Flush with green pride

It's the R2-D2 of the toilet world. Computers are one of the biggest producers of unwanted waste and what better way to deal with it than sculpting it into the mother(board) of all latrines. Environmental artist Steven Rodrig restructures recycled printed circuit boards (PCB) into things of sci-fi beauty.

PCBCREATIONS.COM

The telephone book chair

The phone directory's days are numbered, but here's a design call you might just want to make. All you need is some old wood (crate, broken chair or anything in between) and some diced and sliced directories to pad out the void. For full instructions, visit instructables.com.

CHRISTY OATES/ INSTRUCTABLES

INSTRUCTABLES / MICROLITHIC

Take a light ride: The bicycle lamp

Pedal power will put you in the frame for the future of lighting. Before you tell me to take a hike, just look at these bike lights. If you haven't got an old bicycle, take a hacksaw to the local bicycle rack (joking, we wouldn't really incite theft). After you've jacked the wheels, head over to instructables.com to assemble.

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It's home, petite home

Small is more: A view inside the Morrisons' trailer home shows that you can have all the regular household essentials, even in a tight space. TINY HOUSE BUILD

Tiny house movement.
American family goes small, really small, and finds rewards are huge

MICHELLE CASTILLO
Metro World News in London

With their large house in the perfect neighbourhood, the Morrisons thought they were living the American dream. Soon, the strain of living in a spacious abode began to weigh down on their energy levels and their conscience.

"It went from comfort to resentment," Gabriella Morrison explains. "We didn't have time to enjoy the house because we had to work so much more to pay for it."

Luckily, the Morrisons found a simple solution to their homestead woes: They joined the 'tiny house movement.' Its members share the same ideal that living in small spaces can lead to less complex lives and less waste.

After reading The Small House Book by Jay Shafer, the Morrisons got rid of 50 per cent of their items within six months. Soon after, Gabriella, her husband Andrew and their daughter Terra sold their house, bought a pop-up tent trailer and moved to Baja California, Mexico.

"There's something about living in that teeny tiny pop-up trailer; we were finally able to connect with each other. It's lasted all this time. The changes that we experienced I daresay, it was really permanent," says Gabriella.

Wanting to continue their success, Gabriella and Andrew moved to Ashland, Ore. and built a 32 square metre trailer to live in. The structure, which took four months to build, contains two full-sized beds, a working/eating area, a kitchen, a bathroom and a lounge area for visitors.

To make sure they are living green, Andrew puts a special focus on cooling and heating their place efficiently. The high ceilings and multiple windows help keep the place breezy. A gas-burning fireplace helps warm the residence and allows them to turn off the device if they aren't around. Having a small house enables them to use less energy to accomplish both tasks.

The most expensive piece of "furniture" in the Morrison trailer was a $1,400 composting toilet — a dry toilet that turns human waste into compost, or 'humanure'.

They also purchase smaller-sized items they know that they can finish instead of buying in bulk, so they don't have excessive products and create more waste. In addition, there's no extra storage space in their tiny abode.

"The warehouse shopping thing is an unbelievable myth and farce," Gabriella explained. "You go in and see these amazing deals. The amount of things that went to waste was shocking. It's just too much. You can't use 40 bars of soap in a lifetime."

Three and a half years after making this choice, they have purged 80 per cent of their belongings. They live by the rule that if they don't use something in the last 365 days, they toss it out.

The Morrisons do own one storage unit, but are planning to sell most of the items inside. They allow themselves one Tupperware each for heirlooms. For anything sentimental that's not really needed, they take a picture to keep it in their memories but throw the item away.

Above all, the Morrisons' initiative is about staying simple and becoming independent.

"One of our biggest passions in life is empowering the average person to build their own shelter. With the right information and a little encouragement even those with no previous building experience can handcraft their dream home," adds Andrew.

A room of one's own — for lucky tween

Admittedly, the Morrisons' living space can get a bit too cramped, especially with their two children to look after. So they built a small lookout cabin 30 metres away for their 12-year-old daughter Terra where she can study and sleep. Andrew has also started a larger treehouse project for his 17-year-old son, who's returned from college prep boarding school in Colorado. It's something he always promised his son since he was a child. "Now, we can finally do it — although the scope of the treehouse has got a lot more complicated," he adds laughing. MWN

Humble abode: The house's timber exterior is minimalist in style but feels right at home in its woodland surroundings. TINY HOUSE BUILD

Kitchen cool: It looks just like yours, maybe even better. TINY HOUSE BUILD

Work and rest: Office/eating area and kitchen. TINY HOUSE BUILD

Keep pup and your home safe

You can teach a new dog old tricks. Protecting your puppy from harm means your stuff stays intact, too

We bought food bowls, borrowed a crate and dusted off baby gates. But soon after we adopted our 13-week-old puppy, we discovered the house really wasn't ready.

Clove, a Labrador retriever mix, chewed wires we thought were hidden and investigated stairs we thought she'd ignore. She rummaged through deep plastic bins holding smelly shin guards and plucked snow-soaked mittens from our warm radiators. Within a week of her arrival, we had to block off power strips, reorganize our mudroom, devise a new plan for drying winter gear and gate the staircase.

"It's a lot like having an infant in the household," said Pamela Barlow, animal behaviour counsellor at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals' adoption centre in New York City.

Barlow says puppies need constant supervision and a safe environment to explore. She cautions against confining them so much that they don't get outside experiences. It is hard to go back and socialize puppies if owners miss the window of opportunity to do so.

Puppies are drawn to things they can chew on and are stimulated by things that move, said Dr. Carlo Siracusa, director of the Penn Vet Behavior Service at the University of Pennsylvania.

A new puppy

"It's a lot like having an infant in the household."

Pamela Barlow, animal behaviour counsellor at the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

"Many times we think that we should protect our home from a new puppy," Siracusa said, because the puppy could potentially cause damage. But more important is the opposite: making sure that puppies are safe in their new home.

Most essential is to create a safe haven — a place where the puppy can rest and sleep when there is too much excitement or stimulation, such as when kids have friends visiting, Siracusa says.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chew on these ideas to protect your homework — and your home — from that adorable puppy

Puppy behaviour experts recommend these steps to protect your puppy at home:

- Gate off rooms where you don't want your puppy to roam.
- Let puppies earn their freedom. Give them one space or room at a time. That way, owners can actively supervise them and limit any bad behaviour.
- Create a safe confinement area — a crate or exercise pen, for instance — where the puppy can stay when you're not home. There should be enough space for a sleeping area and a potty area when puppies are very young. Also essential are a non-spill water bowl and safe, enriching toys. Toys that are not safe for this area when you are gone include tennis balls, rope toys, toys that are shorter than about double the length of the puppy's snout, and stuffed toys that have glass or plastic eyes and noses, Barlow said.
- Tape loose electrical cords. Use outlet covers.
- Store cleaning chemicals out of reach. Use baby latches on cabinet doors if needed.
- Move breakables and valuables out of the puppy's reach. Roll up new or valuable rugs until the puppy is house-trained.

A puppy rests by a gate that prevents her from entering a formal dining room where there are fragile items.

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HOUSING SALES STRONGER THAN EXPECTED

IN WESTERN CANADA

ANDY DEAN PHOTOGRAPHY/SHUTTERSTOCK

The extreme winter weather — polar vortex and all — has taken a toll on home sales nationally, as buyers keep home shopping plans on ice until the big spring melt.

Despite the slight decline in home sales (down 3.3 per cent from January to December 2013) and flat numbers for new listings across the country, prices are still up 9½ per cent nationally — the average Canadian home will cost $391,000 in 2014.

It's different in Western Canada, where prices and sales activity are stronger than expected. The Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA) reports the country's biggest gains in B.C., with that province forecasting 8.4 per sales increases in 2014, while most other provinces have modest growth of two to four per cent.

"Most housing markets are well-balanced, including many large urban centres," says Gregory Klump, CREA's chief economist. "Housing price gains are always stronger in places where supply is tight, relative to demand, such as we're seeing in Calgary."

Calgary is expected to see year-over-year price growth of 8.98 per cent in 2014, but lack of choice in single-family homes means it's the condo sector that is surging there.

"Consumers looking for more affordable product turned to Calgary's condominium market, the only sector to record growth in new listings compared to January 2013," says Calgary Real Estate Board president Bill Kirk.

In major markets like Vancouver, detached house and condo prices continue to rise, with experts pointing to an attractive lifestyle, scarce inventory and wealthy immigrant buyers helping fuel demand. But with prices there approaching $1 million for a single-family homes, many are priced out of the market.

Canadian housing is overvalued, experts agree, predicting a much needed correction in home prices by up to 20 per cent over the next five years. For many buyers, the only answer remains the condo market, up 3.7 per cent in Greater Vancouver over the past year, but still affordable at $371,500 on average.

In Edmonton, the average condo selling price was up 3.2 per cent, with that market predicted to remain active in 2014. A slight slowdown in all sectors is predicted for Saskatchewan in 2014-15.

– Lucy Haines

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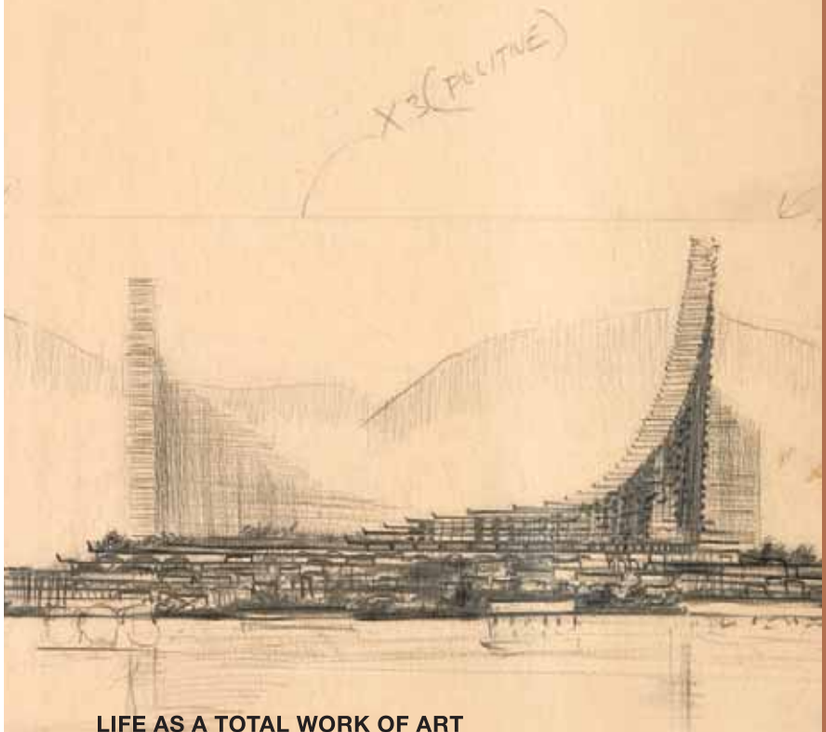

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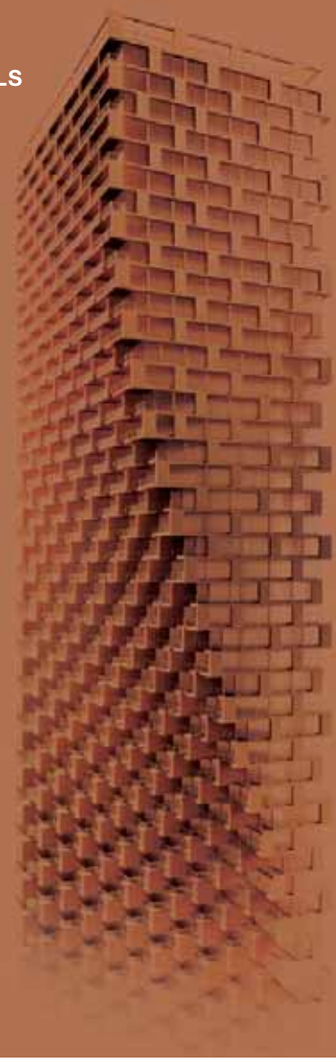

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MET2 HELPING TO REDUCE CARBON FOOTPRINTS

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Deciding to keep MET2 green was an easy choice, says Peter Udzenija, Concord Pacific's director of corporate relations. Back in February, Concord Pacific and the city of Burnaby announced a partnership on adding energy efficient transportation.

MET2 offers two electric vehicles (including the ultra trendy Tesla S), as well as quick-charge stations as part of the commitment to green energy transportation.

"It's all about having a transit-oriented development," Udzenija says.

He says as soon as Concord Pacific decided to install charging stations, the company instantly knew it wanted to help future-proof its owners by making them quick charge.

Udzenija says Concord Pacific has absorbed much of the high cost of creating energy efficient infrastructure on the development for the good of the environment.

Burnaby council challenged construction companies to keep their developments green, and MET2 is on the cutting edge.

"We are absolutely thrilled that Concord Pacific embraced our move to include electric vehicles and EV charging stations as part of their development, it's really forward thinking," Burnaby Mayor Derek Corrigan said in February.

Green transportation has long been a part of Concord Pacific's goals and MET2 is helping the developer realize those goals.

Concord Pacific has made a large goal of reducing carbon emissions. With solar farms in both Ontario and B.C., the company is putting its money where its mouth is and investing in sustainable energy.

But energy efficiency at MET2 doesn't end when you get out of your car.

Featuring a LEED silver certifiable design and energy efficient appliances, MET2 adds to the peace of mind of owners.

To help owners reduce their carbon footprint, the development is near the soon to be renovated Metrotown SkyTrain station.

"Being close to parks, transit, as well as building tall has helped make the development focus on energy efficiency," Udzenija says.

HOLLYWOOD LUXURY IN COMFORT OF YOUR HOME

There aren't many condos where if you tire of the swimming pool, you can wander downstairs to the bowling alley or work on your short game in the golf simulator. MET2 in Burnaby is that development.

Offering glitz and glam once reserved for movie stars and moguls, the development by Concord Pacific is offering Hollywood luxury in the comfort of your own home.

"It's like a Hollywood movie star's home with everything there," says Grant Murray, Concord Pacific's vice-president sales. "There's really no need for someone to go anywhere else besides their own home."

While building MET2, the focus was on combining the amenities of the local facilities with a mix of the building's own. With more apartments in MET2, Concord Pacific made a concerted effort to build more of its own amenities.

A bowling alley awaits those who want to let off some steam by hitting the pins. For those concerned about playing golf with their bosses, an indoor golf simulator helps you work on your game year round, while an outdoor putting green is ideal to work on your short game.

CONTRIBUTED

The bowling alley has been a big hit at Concord Pacific's two properties in Vancouver and Surrey.

Hosting guests is made easy with a cocktail lounge, or a karaoke room where you can sing along to your favourite hits.

"You've got everything within your own building, with nearby soccer fields and parks as well," Murray says. "The west-facing views mean you always have a park view."

The high-end amenities help foster a sense of community as they let people come together over a shared interest in the activities.

The lawn bowling green will allow residents an opportunity to form teams and make new friends, while partnerships can form over a game in the mah-jong room. Clearly, the emphasis was on entertainment.

FAMILIES IN MIND

MET2 was built with families in mind, says Peter Udzenija, Concord Pacific's director of corporate relations. While designing the development, Concord Pacific took a look back at its MET development and asked prospective homeowners what they wanted. The resounding answer? Family-friendly spaces.

"It provides an opportunity for new families without being far from the city," Udzenija says.

MET2 has three-bedroom apartments, as well as three-bedroom apartments with large family rooms, with prices starting at $573,900.

With surrounding parks, as well as nearby restaurants and a library, the development is focused on offering families a community experience.

Udzenija says the price of a three-bedroom apartment at MET2 is comparable to a one bedroom and den in downtown Vancouver, but offers more amenities than you would get downtown.

MET2

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CONCORD PACIFIC

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CONVENIENTLY DESIGNED

Imported Italian cabinets and fully equipped kitchens are just some of the luxuries awaiting those who buy at SOLO District.

Not content with offering basic amenities, Appia Development made the decision to offer only the best to owners.

"We wanted to be able to offer a product that is one step above everything else being offered right now," says Lisa Murrell, sales and marketing manager at Appia Development.

Either stainless steel or integrated appliances adorn SOLO District kitchens, while gas ranges allow you to cook like a professional.

The condos themselves are being built to allow maximum comfort to occupants.

"It's all fully air conditioned and heated by a geothermal exchange system, meaning you don't have any baseboard heaters," Murrell says.

All the homes are built to LEED gold equivalent, ensuring utmost care was given to energy efficiency.

Every unit comes with its own washer and a gas dryer to cut out trips to the laundromat.

With homes starting in the low $300,000s and ranging from 539-square-foot one bedrooms to 1,709-square-foot three-bedroom, two-storey sky villas, SOLO District offers an affordable opportunity for new owners.

With a hotel-style lobby with concierge service, owner experience has been placed at the top of Appia's concerns.

Burnaby's first Whole Foods is scheduled to open and will offer high-end grocery shopping, while both residents and visitors will benefit from the addition of a brand new Shoppers Drug Mart.

Ample office space in the new office tower and shopping outlets on the ground level add to the air of luxury around the development.

There is easy access to the Brentwood SkyTrain Station across the street, and access to Modo Car Share, with three vehicles per tower, are provided for one year free to owners to help them get around town without having to own their own vehicle.

Everything in SOLO District was truly designed with the convenience of the residents in mind.

A WELCOME MAT FOR YOUR PET

Pet lovers rejoice — there's a home for you in Burnaby. While many developments shun pet owners, SOLO District is welcoming them with arms wide open to STRATUS, the first of four residential towers. Many condos that allow owners to have pets don't offer exercise space.

"We looked at things that would make living in condominiums more appealing to people and having outdoor space for your pets was an option," says Lisa Murrell, the sales and marketing manager at Appia Development.

Owners in STRATUS can take their pooches to stretch their legs at a fully fenced dog park, located on the fifth-floor roof terrace, which is actually the top of Burnaby's first Whole Foods.

"It's just this amazing space," Murrell says of the fifth-floor deck.

If the dog park isn't for you, parks and pedestrian-friendly streets of the SOLO District allow you to get fresh air but the comfort of staying close to home.

AN ISLE OF SECLUSION

Easy access to public transit? Check. Located along major routes? Check. Located in the heart of Burnaby? Check. SOLO District is offering residents an isle of seclusion from the hustle and bustle of city living.

"You're not right on top of each other," says Lisa Murrell, the sales and marketing manager at Appia Development. "We're trying to make it less like a metropolis and more like a community."

The district is the brainchild of Appia Development, a group founded by Jim Bosa in 1991.

With a desire to keep the homes energy efficient and allow owners to stay healthy, there was a concerted effort to make SOLO District a central location in the neighbourhood.

Located on the southwest corner of Lougheed Highway and Willingdon, just steps away from the Brentwood SkyTrain Station, SOLO District allows owners to get wherever they want in a matter of minutes.

The location allows those working in downtown Vancouver a simple commute in an affordable home, something lacking in the city.

"Everything is right there, right at your doorstep," Murrell says.

When complete, SOLO District will be home to 1,400 residences in four towers, two of which are under construction. Many owners will receive two years of transit passes when they purchase a condo.

The development also offers parking for the Modo Car Share and plug-in outlets for electric cars for those without access to their own vehicle.

Phase 2, Altus, will not only have Burnaby's tallest residential tower, but will also be home to an office tower, which offers spaces for those who want to work close to home with retail and other amenities spread throughout the development.

With streets designed for pedestrian use, Appia made a concerted effort to have everything within walking distance of SOLO District.

"Everything is walkable," Murrell says. "You can walk downstairs to get your groceries, walk your dog, buy your insurance or go see your dentist without having to drive anywhere."

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TURNING GOOD IDEAS INTO PROFIT

For real estate developers and industry insiders, Saskatchewan's solid economic foundations make it the land of potential growth and opportunity.

"There is real estate potential as far as the eye can see in Saskatchewan, and it is potential that investors should be taking advantage of," says Jaimey Midtdal, spokesperson for the Red Door Venture Group. "The amount of undeveloped land has attracted real estate developers who see a bright future and burgeoning economy."

The Saskatchewan-based real estate marketing company teams up with outstanding local developers to deliver high-quality developments across the province, Midtdal says. Saskatchewan's potential for development has opened up the real estate market for new and innovative opportunities, for both developers and buyers.

"The province's solid economic foundation has allowed unprecedented growth in Saskatchewan, and the real estate market has followed suit," Midtdal says. "It's growth we're proud to be a part of. We turn good ideas into profit for our customers, while giving them the tools they need."

The Red Door Venture Group works with developers throughout their process, beginning at the land acquisition stage and continuing through to the concept, design, and sales stages.

For more about Red Door Venture Group or to schedule a complimentary consultation, visit RedDoorVentureGroup.ca.

MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

CONTRIBUTED

PLANTERS CAN CREATE PERSONALIZED SPACES

Atlas Pots doesn't just design and sell contemporary, durable and lightweight garden containers — it helps create personalized spaces, indoors and out.

And whether for a compact, serene balcony space or an entertainment area in the backyard, Atlas Pots can provide the perfect planter (or two, or three) to make that spot special and unique.

"Homeowners, condo dwellers, developers and landscapers, they choose our products because of the quality and variety of designs," says Maninder Tennessey who, with husband Tarie, created the eight-year-old North Vancouver business. "These contemporary, stylish planters really make an impact. Even indoors, planters are perfect as an entryway focal point, or decorative accent piece in the home."

Durable, winter-proof planters, from the most narrow of pots to six-foot-long containers, come in a variety of lines, such as thick-walled fibreglass and concrete-look composite resin, with an array of design choices.

People use containers not only for flowers and shrubs, but trees and edibles, while greenery such as bamboo and grasses are popular for creating privacy walls.

Working directly with manufacturers, the Tennesseys are involved in the quality and design of every container they carry, and look forward to helping people make an incredible space of their own.

WE TURN IDEAS INTO PROFIT

WHO ARE WE?

Red Door Venture Group is a multi-faceted firm dedicated to real estate developers that are looking to make their mark in the booming province of Saskatchewan.

Our commitment is to produce turn-key developments for clients from land acquisition to concept and design to sales. We have an easy all-service system available to our clients.

Whether you are a long-term Saskatchewan developer or a new developer interested in Saskatchewan, we are the ones to turn to.

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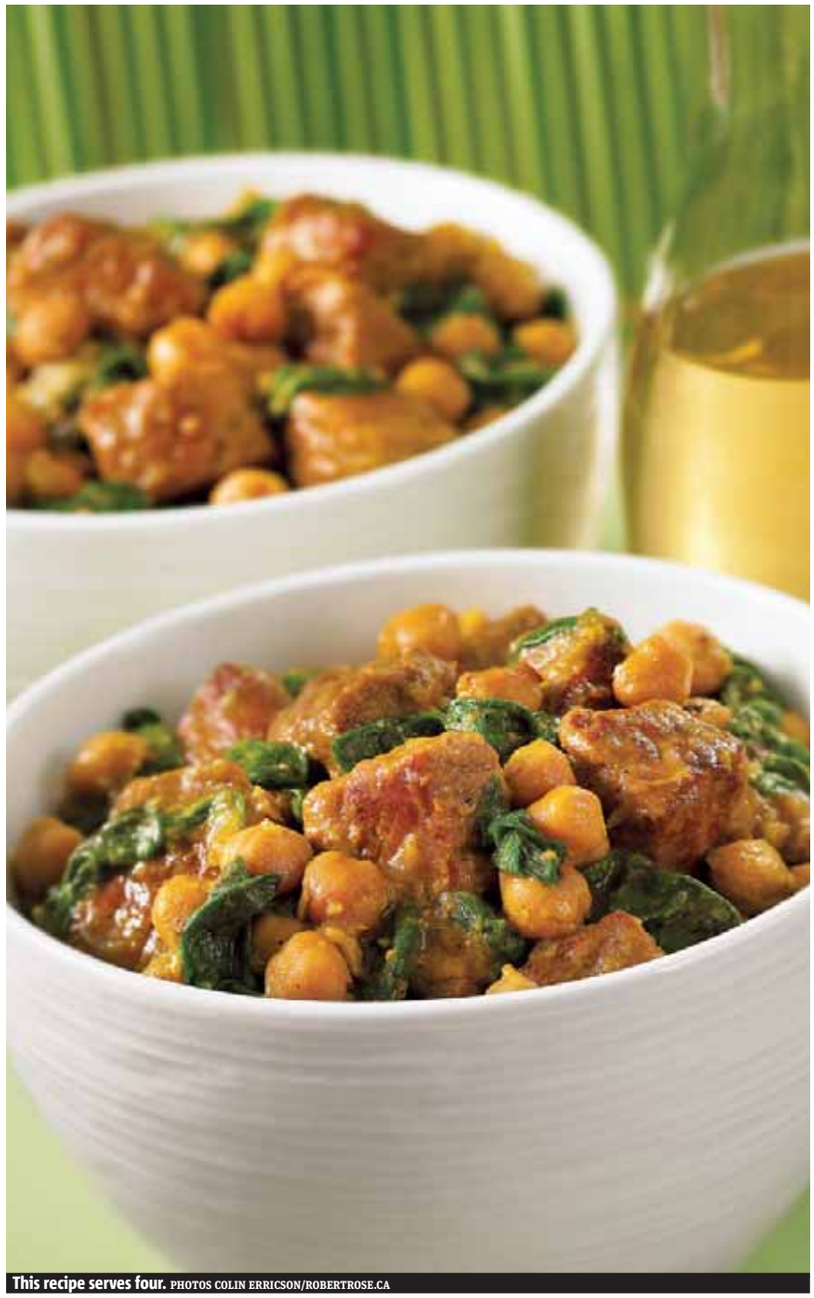
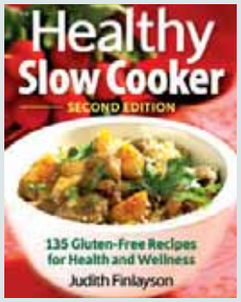
Slow cooker meal packs protein punch


This recipe serves four. PHOTOS COLIN ERRICSON/ROBERTROSE.CA

Cookbook of the Week

Slow and steady wins health race



In the follow-up to the first edition of The Healthy Slow Cooker, Judith Finlayson takes conflicting information about the changing face of dietary guidelines and balances it with a common-sense approach.

All the recipes in the book are deliciously nutrient-dense and have a rounded approach to meet a wide range of needs.

From soups and entrées to desserts, Finlayson uses the slow cooker to show readers how simple healthy eating can be. Among recipes are Easy Paella, Cheesy Grits, Bistro Fish Soup and more. METRO

Beef and Chickpea Curry with Spinach.

The Indian-inspired flavours will have your taste buds doing a happy dance

"I like to serve this with brown basmati rice, not only because I like its pleasant nutty flavor but also for its nutritional value," writes Judith Finalyson in her book The Healthy Slow Cooker, Second Edition.

1. In a skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat. Add beef, in batches, and cook, stirring, adding additional oil if necessary, until browned, about 4 minutes per batch. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware.

2. Reduce heat to medium. Add onions to pan and cook, stirring, until softened, about 3 minutes. Add garlic, ginger, peppercorns, cinnamon stick and bay leaf and cook, stirring, for 1 minute. Add beef stock and bring to a boil.

3. Transfer to slow cooker stoneware. Add chickpeas and stir well. Cover and cook on Low for 8 hours or on High for 4 hours, until beef is tender. Add curry powder solution and stir well. Add spinach, in batches, stirring until each batch is submerged in the curry. Cover and cook on High for 20 minutes, until spinach is wilted. Discard cinnamon stick and bay leaf. Ladle into bowls and drizzle with yogurt, if using.

RECIPES COURTESY THE HEALTHY SLOW COOKER, SECOND EDITION BY JUDITH FINLAYSON, 2014 © ROBERTROSE.CA REPRINTED WITH PUBLISHER PERMISSION.

Ingredients and Tools

- Medium to large (3 1/2 to 5 quart) slow cooker
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) olive oil
- 1 lb (500 g) trimmed stewing beef, cut into 1/2-inch (1 cm) cubes
- 2 onions, finely chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) minced gingerroot
- 1/2 tsp (2 ml) cracked black peppercorns
- 1 piece (1 inch/2.5 cm) cinnamon stick
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 cup (250 ml) beef stock
- 2 cups (500 ml) cooked chickpeas, drained
- 1 tsp (5 ml) curry powder, dissolved in 2 tsp (10 ml) freshly squeezed lemon juice
- 1 lb (500 g) fresh spinach, stems removed
- 1 package (10 oz/300 g) spinach leaves, thawed if frozen
- Plain yogurt, optional

This recipe makes about 3 cups (750 ml).

Appetizer. Spinach and Artichoke Dip

1. In slow cooker stoneware, combine shredded mozzarella, Neufchâtel cheese, Parmesan, garlic, artichokes, spinach and black pepper. Cover and cook on High for 2 hours, until hot and bubbly. Stir well and serve with homemade tortilla chips.

Ingredients and Tools

- Small to medium (11/2 to 31/2 quart) slow cooker
- 1 cup (250 ml) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 6 oz (175 ml) Neufchâtel cheese, cubed
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) freshly grated Parmesan
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 can (14 oz/398 ml) artichokes, drained, rinsed and finely chopped
- 8 oz (250 g) trimmed fresh spinach leaves (about 8 cups/2 L)
- 1/4 tsp (1 ml) black pepper

For your phone

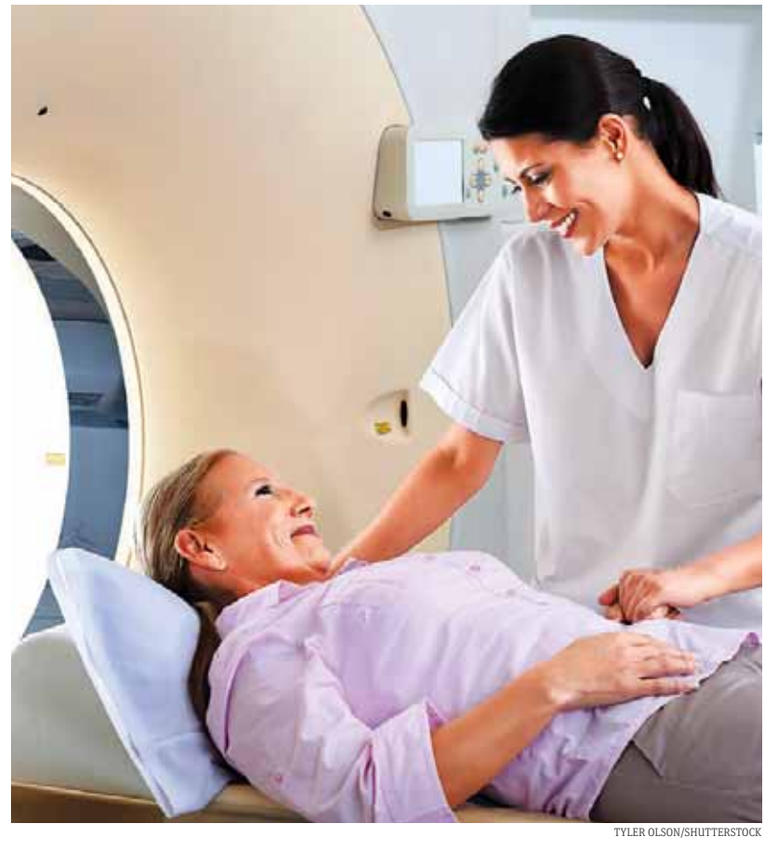
Blend (iPad; free)

MIND THE APP
Kris Abel
@RealKrisAbel
life@metronews.ca

This introductory guide to creating your own spice blends includes sixteen international recipes and videos on how to dry, roast, and grind seeds for sauces, seasonings, desserts, and soup flavourings.

DAILY CHALLENGES OF LIVING WITH CANCER

INCLUDING ACCESS TO NEW TREATMENTS



TYLER OLSON/SHUTTERSTOCK

As Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month draws to a close, relatively little attention has been paid to the thousands of Canadians who are living with advanced colon cancer.

Although these patients add their voices as advocates of screening and primary prevention, they are also faced with the daily challenges of obtaining access to new drugs to treat their disease and manage their symptoms. Timely access to these therapies can greatly affect the quality of life and a patient's ability to prolong it.

"I speak to patients with very advanced cancer daily and I believe there is a false perception that these individuals are always bedridden and incredibly sick," says Barry D. Stein, president of the Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada (CCAC). "In many cases today, if you were to meet someone with advanced colon cancer, you might not even know they were ill."

These patients want to extend their lives and maximize the quality of time they will have with their family and friends. There has been tremendous progress in developing such treatments but there are issues around accessing them. Access also varies across Canada.

The provincial and territorial ministries of health formed the pan-Canadian Oncology Drug Review (pCODR) group in 2010 to ensure a balanced review of newly approved cancer treatments by asking oncology specialists and impartial patient representatives to make recommendations to provincial formularies with regard to the funding of new oncology drugs.

"In principal, pCODR is a good thing," Stein says. "The challenge is that it appears too much emphasis is being placed on economics and not enough on the personal impact of new medicines. Negative decisions on funding greatly impact patients with advanced disease who still have time to live, but are being denied public funding for new and effective treatment options."

"I continue to manage my cancer on a daily basis and I am a huge proponent of awareness to prevent cancer through screening, but I see a huge gap when it comes to public awareness about lack of access to new treatment options," says Stephen Dunn of Toronto. "I know for myself and other patients in a similar situation we simply cannot accept decisions about life-extending treatments based purely on economics."

The Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada is taking the lead to escalate the "access" discussion with Canadians so they understand the nuances of funding new drugs and how important public funding is to patients with advanced cancer.

For more information on the ongoing access issue or to get involved, visit colorectal-cancer.ca.

BE YOUR OWN ADVOCATE AND MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

Tina Radoslav

CONTRIBUTED

You would never know by seeing her at the gym during her daily workout, but Tina Radoslav of Stoney Creek, is living with metastatic colon cancer.

An active, optimistic single mother of three, she is not the image of a patient with advanced cancer most Canadians call to mind.

Five and a half years ago, Radoslav was diagnosed with Stage 4, or metastatic, colon cancer. That day changed everything in her life.

"I was leaving the doctor's office with my mom and saying to her … 'I can't do this.' Mom replied, 'You can do this, you will do this!'"

An advanced cancer diagnosis has presented challenges for Radoslav beyond her health. Her husband of 25 years left their marriage 18 months into her cancer journey. Her employer let Radoslav go because it was not prepared to deal with her diagnosis and the time off she would need for treatments. Her life has changed, but, in her own words, she is "still alive."

Colorectal Cancer Association of Canada

"Be your own advocate," Radoslav tells newly diagnosed patients.

She knows this is hard when they are also coming to terms with their diagnoses, but it is essential.

"You are in the battle of your lifetime. Our health-care system is great if you are dealing with a common illness. It doesn't work as well when you are dealing with an advanced form of cancer.

"Metastatic cancer is not a one-size-fits-all disease. Some options stop working or don't work as well on one patient as they do on another. We suffer when we cannot access all the treatments and protocols that can benefit us. Sometimes it feels as if patients living with cancer are just looked upon as an economic burden to the system. I strongly believe you cannot put a price tag on a life and I am sure my children would agree."

As Colon Cancer Awareness month comes to a close, Radoslav wants Canadians newly diagnosed with advanced disease to get the support they need. She wants them to make their voices heard.

"Make sure you are aware of the treatment options possible. Talk to your health-care team. Advocate to the government to make new treatments available. I have had to fight for treatments, and everyday I am thankful to be here."

The Canucks' David Booth reacts after scoring one of his two goals against the Wild in St. Paul, Minn., on Wednesday night. ANN HEISENFELT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Booth takes matters into his own hands

NHL. Forward tallies two unassisted goals in Canucks' win over Wild

The Vancouver Canucks are at the point in the season where every loss could end their playoff hopes. Those hopes are still alive after a big road win over Minnesota.

David Booth scored two unassisted goals and Eddie Lack made 29 saves to lead Vancouver over the Wild 5-2 on Wednesday.

Zack Kassian, Daniel Sedin and Ryan Kesler also scored for Vancouver as the Canucks try to make a late push to overtake Phoenix and Dallas for the Western Conference's final wild-card playoff spot.

On Wednesday

Canucks	Wild
5	2

"It's huge, we're in a do-or-die position," Alexandre Burrow said. "If we would have lost this game we probably would have been out of the race."

Minnesota outshot Vancouver 31-19 and got goals from Charlie Coyle and Nino Niederreiter, but lost its third straight at home.

Booth scored for the second consecutive game after going scoreless in his previous 32.

On his first goal, Booth took the puck the length of the ice after a faceoff and fired it past Darcy Kuemper.

Booth's second goal broke a 1-1 tie in the second period and came after Jared Spurgeon whiffed on a pass in the Wild zone, leading to a bad turnover and a point-blank look for Booth.

"We didn't generate a ton of shots, but we were able to capitalize on the ones we did," Booth said.

Minnesota, currently holding the first wild-card spot in the West, controlled play for most of the first two periods, but failed to capitalize on four power plays and fell behind 3-1.

Even though his team was generating chances early, Wild coach Mike Yeo was nervous.

"Especially in that first period, we're out-chancing them, we're outshooting them, but still. Just didn't quite have the right feel," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WHL playoffs

Winterhawks cap opening-round sweep of Giants

The Vancouver Giants had their season come to an end at the hands of a Portland Winterhawks team with the goal of making it two consecutive Memorial Cup appearances.

The Giants gave up three goals in the span of 56 seconds late in the first period, and eventually lost by a final score 6-1 at the Pacific Coliseum on Wednesday.

The Winterhawks, ranked third in the entire CHL coming into the postseason and finalists in last year's Memorial Cup championship game, took the best-of-seven series in a 4-0 sweep.

Going by the motto "champions under construction," the Giants got a first-hand look at the blueprint of what it takes to be an elite team, not just in the Western Hockey League. The Winterhawks didn't sit back.

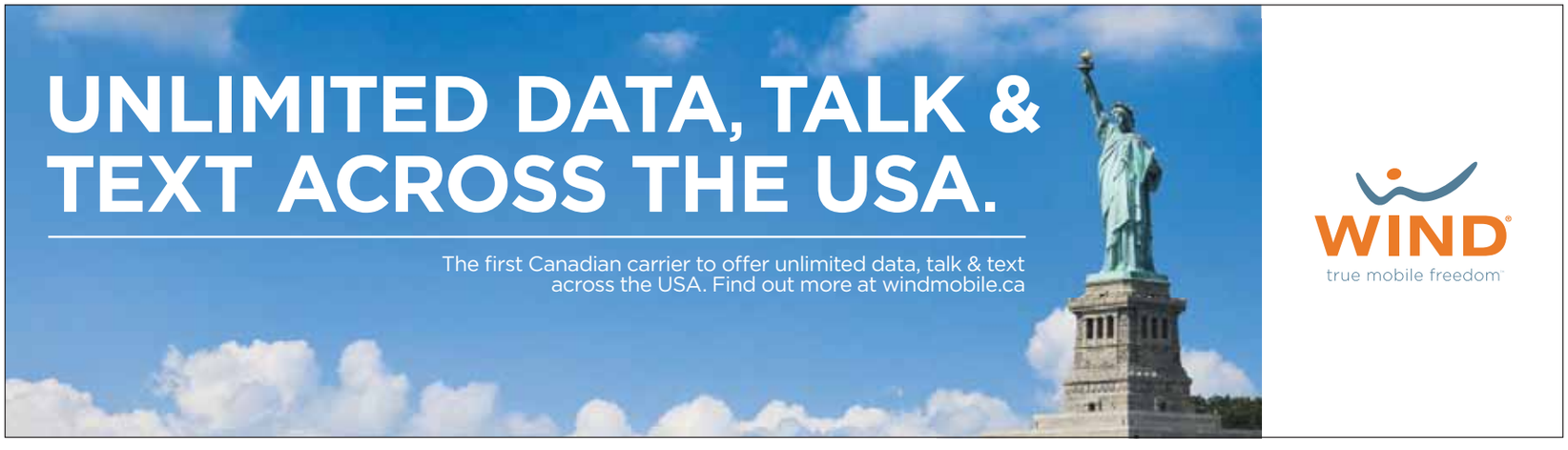
And again, much like in Game 3 the previous night, Portland's power play was the catalyst.

Brendan Leipsic, down on one knee, leaned into a one-time shot on a perfect cross-ice pass and buried the puck past Payton Lee.

Adam De Champlain scored 32 seconds later, and Alex Schoenborn made it 3-0 Portland 24 seconds later.

That meant the end of the evening for Lee, the Giants' 17-year-old goalie, who allowed three goals on 13 shots.

Jared Rathjen came into the game. Carter Popoff scored Vancouver's lone goal. CAM TUCKER/METRO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'Caps Reo-Coker unlikely to play against Dynamo

MLS. Vancouver midfielder concussed after taking tumble on walk down street

CAM TUCKER
cam.tucker@metronews.ca

A concussion sustained in a peculiar accident away from the soccer pitch likely means Nigel Reo-Coker will not be available for the Vancouver Whitecaps this weekend.

Reo-Coker was walking in Vancouver on Sunday when he tripped over a bike rack and hit his head. In addition to the concussion, he suffered cuts to his face.

Wednesday marked the second consecutive day of training that Reo-Coker missed. Head coach Carl Robinson said the 29-year-old midfielder likely won't be ready to face the Houston Dynamo at BC Place Stadium on Saturday.

"We hope he makes a speedy recovery and hopefully he'll be back here soon," said Robinson following Wednesday's session at UBC.

Robinson has played the game extensively in North America and abroad. He's seen and heard some strange stories of players suffering injuries, although what happened to Reo-Coker seems to rank right up there.

"Picking up a remote control and pulling your hamstring," he said. "It's quite a serious injury for him, but it's one that makes you chuckle when you hear about it.

"He fell and banged his face and obviously you've got to be very careful with head injuries these days."

The injury to Reo-Coker could mean that Gershon Koffie, with 77 starts through his first three years in Vancouver, gets into the Starting XI against the Dynamo.

"So Nigel's misfortune will obviously be a chance for one of the others to step in," said Robinson.

The Whitecaps say Nigel Reo-Coker suffered a head injury when he tripped over a bike rack on Sunday. JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

CFL

Steward agrees to deal with Lions

The B.C. Lions locked up another young Canadian on their offensive line, agreeing to terms on a deal with 2013 first-round pick Hunter Steward.

The Lions announced the deal Wednesday.

B.C. took Steward with the sixth-overall pick in last year's CFL Canadian Draft. He initially began his college football career as a reserve on the defensive line at Liberty University, but made the switch to left guard for the last two seasons.

"Hunter is a big, athletic offensive lineman who has tremendous upside," said VP of football operations and general manager Wally Buono in a statement.

"When you add the acquisition of Hunter to our offensive line which already includes Matt Norman and Kirby Fabien, it certainly gives us a bright future." METRO

Going to Main Street–Science World Station?

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TRANSLINK

Winnipeg named 2015 Grey Cup host

CFL. Commissioner Cohon says new stadium a perfect fit for showpiece game

Mark Cohon says he's looking forward to showcasing the modern CFL in one of the league's proudest homes.

Sporting a blue-and-gold tie, the CFL commissioner officially announced Wednesday that the Winnipeg Blue Bombers will host the 103rd Grey Cup game on Nov. 29, 2015.

Cohon said the event will highlight the growth of the league and show off the 33,500-seat Investors Group Field, which opened last year. Seating will be expanded to 41,000 with temporary seating for the championship game.

Winnipeg has hosted the Grey Cup in 2006, 1999 and 1991.

"This gives us a great opportunity to showcase the modern CFL in our premier event in a beautiful, modern Investors Group Field," Cohon said at a luncheon in Winnipeg.

CFL commissioner Mark Cohon

BARRY GRAY/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

"It's really the new look and feel that we have that's coming across the league."

He pointed out the Hamilton Tiger-Cats will open Tim Hortons Field this summer, while the expansion Ottawa Redblacks will christen TD Place this year. Regina is set to open its new stadium for the Saskatchewan Roughriders in 2017.

But there are some dark clouds looming over the league, as the four-year collective bargaining agreement with the CFL Players' Association expires in late May just before training camps open.

Players are looking for a bigger piece of the pie, with revenue sharing reportedly one of their goals. Talks between the association and league broke off earlier this month, but are scheduled to continue next month.

When asked about the league being philosophically against the concept of a revenue-sharing agreement, Cohon said he wouldn't talk specifics.

"I'll talk about where we are as a league, but I was pretty resolute last time that when we negotiate that I am not going to negotiate in public," he said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

A footballer's full nelson

Liverpool's Steven Gerrard celebrates scoring the first goal against Sunderland with teammate Luis Suarez at Anfield on Wednesday in Liverpool. The Reds won 2-1 and moved within one point of English Premier League-leading Chelsea. ALEX LIVESEY/GETTY IMAGES

NBA

Pacers clinch division title

Paul George scored 23 points leading the Indiana Pacers back from a seven-point fourth-quarter deficit for an 84-83 victory over the Miami Heat on Wednesday night. With the victory, Indiana (52-20) clinched its second straight Central Division crown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

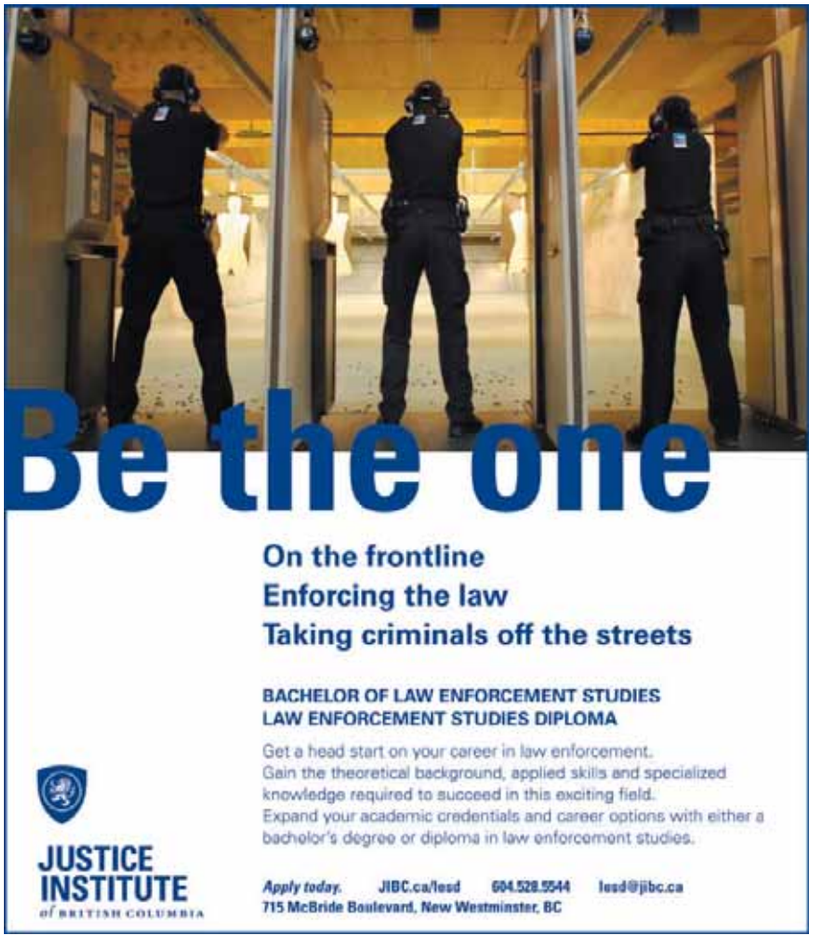
NBA

Raptors inch closer to playoffs

Terrence Ross scored 24 points as the Toronto Raptors edged closer to their first playoff spot since 2008 with a 99-90 win over the Boston Celtics on Wednesday.

Toronto's victory would have been enough for them to clinch an Eastern Conference playoff berth but the New York Knicks' 107-99 win over Sacramento put the celebrations on hold.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS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Who We Are: Metro is Canada's most-read national daily newspaper brand. Metro targets YAMs (youthful, active metropolitans) and reaches more than 1.6 million readers daily and 3.9 million over the course of a week. Metro launched in Canada in Toronto in 2000 and in the spring of 2012, we launched in 6 new cities. In short – we're still growing! When you join Metro, you become part of a cross-country community. We strive to provide a culture that is engaging, flexible and creative; we value our employees and their feedback.

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- Engage with our Metro dealers to provide the best delivery options
- Provide solutions and options for managing all our newspaper pick up points
- Processing collected field data and other administrative duties

REQUIREMENTS OF THE POSITION:

- Organized, detail oriented, and computer savvy
- Familiar with the City of Vancouver
- Presentable, confident and articulate
- Able to work flexible hours
- Valid Class 5 driver license and reliable vehicle is a must

Individuals interested and having the skills described possess the skills described are requested to submit their resumé and cover letter via email to hr@metronews.ca no later than March 28, 2014.

PLEASE QUOTE: "DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT (PART TIME) — Vancouver" in the Subject Line. All submissions will be treated as confidential.

metro

Horoscopes

♈ Aries
March 21 - April 20
Hopefully you will see solutions today where before you saw only problems. That applies to all areas of your life but especially to money matters and business issues that involve other people. Together you can make a profit and have fun.

♉ Taurus
April 21 - May 21
Do you get involved in a feud between friends? You know the answer already, so don't be silly and stand between them to try to keep the peace. If you do, they will gang up on you.

♊ Gemini
May 22 - June 21
If you can get someone else to do some of your chores for you today then go for it. You have more important matters to take care of and you may not have energy to spare.

♋ Cancer
June 22 - July 23
Others can sense your self-confidence and because of that they want to do things for you. Who are you to refuse any offers? It will give you more time to work on a creative project.

♌ Leo
July 24 - Aug. 23
If you need help over the next 24 hours come out and ask for it. If you wait for others to realize that you require assistance chances are you will never get it. They can't read your mind.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
You will find it easy to express yourself today and, more importantly, others will find it easy to understand you. If you are involved in a creative pursuit this is also a good time to impress important people.

♎ Libra
Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
You'll hear something to your benefit today but your suspicious nature could hold you back from taking advantage. Unless there's evidence someone is trying to trick you, take a chance.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
You'll find it easy to work out what is going on in someone's mind today, which in turn will help you decide what you should do next. You see the kind of body language that other people miss.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
It's not like you to withdraw into your shell but you may do so over the next 24 hours. That's OK. You have important issues to decide on and you won't think straight if there is too much noise around you.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
No matter how busy you may be work wise, make an effort to free up some time to spend with your loved ones. They are the people who really matter.

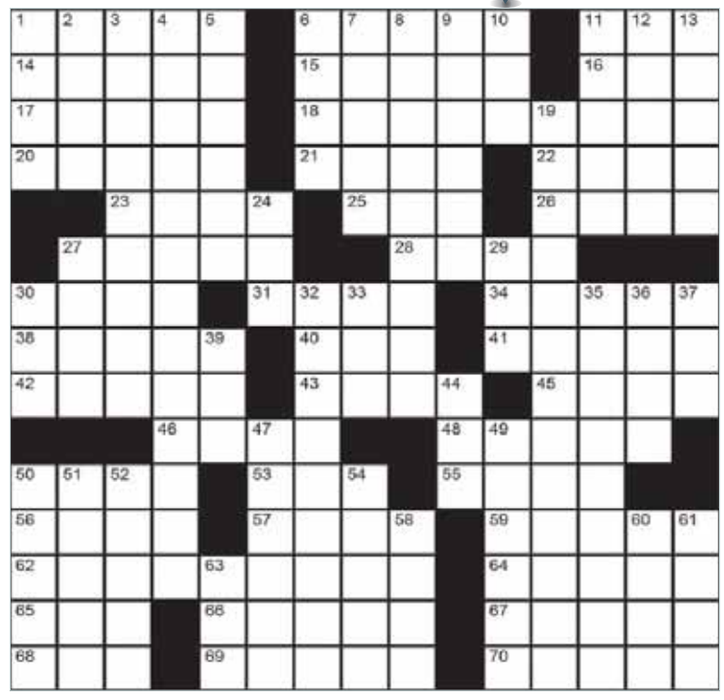
♒ Aquarius
Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
A remark you toss out into the conversation may not be meant in a negative way but that's how one person may take it. If they do seem offended let them know that you meant no harm.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Something will happen today that makes you wonder if there is more going on behind the scenes. Make it your business to find out why certain people are acting so strangely – and use what you discover for your own advantage. SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across and Down

See today's answers at metronews.ca/answers.

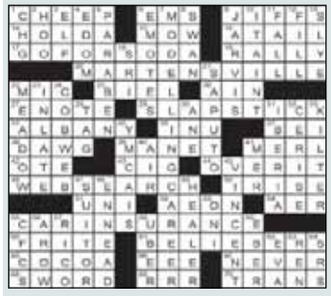
BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Across
1. Crockett's "Miami Vice" partner
6. Mythological blood
11. Do
14. __ __ ease (Jittery)
15. Canadian specialty channel
16. __ constrictor
17. Q. "John, George and Ringo ...who's missing?" A. "__, _ think!"
18. Lawyer's briefcase items, briefly: 2 wds.
20. Fishhook line
21. Oohs' pals
22. Funny person
23. __ buckle
25. Traveller's li'l way
26. Other
27. Archie's jalopy, Ol' __
28. Furniture store
30. Jeanne _'__
31. Actress Tara
34. Google service
38. "The Jetsons" character
40. Boot bit
41. Hog
42. Self-congratulatory exclamation!: 2 wds.
43. English river
45. Medieval chest
46. "No __!" (Casual response to "Thanks.")
48. Flashlight precursor
50. Dad
53. Nothing
55. Certain currency
56. Cook's need
57. Bunch
59. "Leggo!"
62. Newfoundland community on the Burin Peninsula
64. James __, White House architect
65. Photo
66. ABBA's "__ _ Chance on Me"
67. Country's Mr. Adkins
68. Tricky
69. Publicity
70. Flower sort

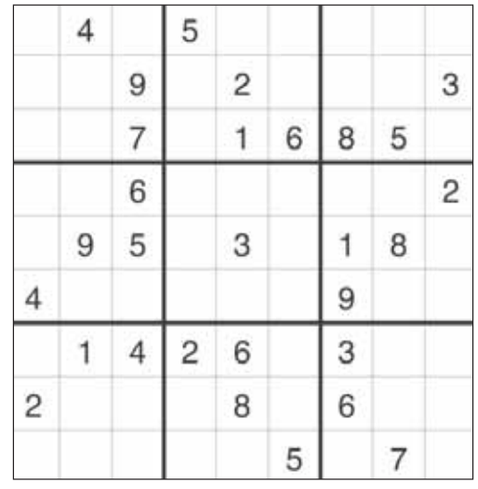
Down
1. Points
2. Mongolia city, __ Bator
3. Oxford, NS: The '__ Capital of Canada'
4. The 'Royal Winnipeg', for one, in dance: 2 wds.
5. Neil Young bandmate, Stephen __
6. Island: Spanish
7. Exonerate
8. The Bay of Fundy is world famous for them: 2 wds.
9. Ric of The Cars
10. Fam. member
11. Heated up, as in cooking
12. Ms. Chanel's
13. Preference
19. 'And Now the Legacy Begins' Hip-Hop greats from Toronto: 2 wds.
24. Norse god of strife
27. Community in The Muskokas in Ontario that has an annual cranberry festival
29. For instances, for short
30. Actress Susan
32. Where Mayor of Toronto Rob Ford was born
33. Promissory note
35. That which Canadian ace Billy Bishop had to engage in during WWI: 2 wds.
36. Length measure
37. Grassland
39. "__ Blues" by The Beatles
44. Printemps follower
47. GM car safety system
49. Alanis Morissette's: "You __ Know"
50. Showy showings
51. Be of service
52. A brother of Ron Weasley's in 'Harry Potter' books
54. 17th-century English composer, Henry __
58. Scientific 'strands'
60. Immobilizing spray
61. Power [abbr.]
63. "Plush" rock gr.

Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.



Yesterday's Sudoku

4	1	6	2	3	8	5	7	9
5	9	3	6	7	1	4	2	8
7	2	8	9	5	4	1	6	3
3	7	5	4	8	6	9	1	2
8	6	1	5	2	9	3	4	7
9	4	2	7	1	3	8	5	6
1	3	7	8	6	5	2	9	4
6	8	4	1	9	2	7	3	5
2	5	9	3	4	7	6	8	1

Today
11°/7°
Showers
40%

Friday
9°/8°
Rain
80%

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TWN incorporates MSC data

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